



(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Dimberg et al.**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2017/0280533 A1**  
(43) **Pub. Date: Sep. 28, 2017**

(54) **GESTURE-BASED CONTROL DEVICE FOR CONTROLLING AN ELECTRICAL LOAD**

sional application No. 62/356,007, filed on Jun. 29, 2016, provisional application No. 62/356,179, filed on Jun. 29, 2016, provisional application No. 62/356,288, filed on Jun. 29, 2016, provisional application No. 62/411,223, filed on Oct. 21, 2016.

(71) Applicant: **Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.**,  
Coopersburg, PA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Chris Dimberg**, Easton, PA (US);  
**Matthew V. Harte**, Stewartsville, NJ (US);  
**Jason C. Killo**, Emmaus, PA (US);  
**Brad Michael Kreschollek**, Bethlehem, PA (US);  
**Matthew Philip McDonald**, Phoenixville, PA (US);  
**Daniel L. Twaddell**, Allentown, PA (US)

**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*H05B 37/02* (2006.01)  
*G06F 3/0484* (2006.01)  
*G06F 3/0488* (2006.01)  
(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
CPC ..... *H05B 37/0209* (2013.01); *G06F 3/04883*  
(2013.01); *G06F 3/04847* (2013.01); *G06F*  
*2203/04808* (2013.01)

(73) Assignee: **Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.**,  
Coopersburg, PA (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

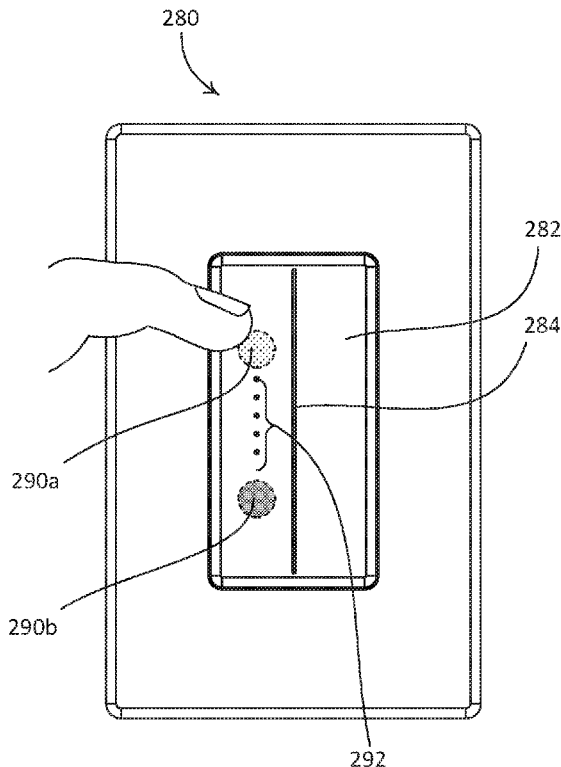
(21) Appl. No.: **15/469,459**

A control device may be configured to control one or more electrical loads in a load control system. The control device may be a wall-mounted device such as dimmer switch, a remote control device, or a retrofit remote control device. The control device may include a gesture-based user interface for applying advanced control over the one or more electrical loads. The types of control may include absolute and relative control, intensity and color control, preset, zone, or operational mode selection, etc. Feedback may be provided on the control device regarding a status of the one or more electrical loads or the control device.

(22) Filed: **Mar. 24, 2017**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(60) Provisional application No. 62/312,863, filed on Mar. 24, 2016, provisional application No. 62/345,222, filed on Jun. 3, 2016, provisional application No. 62/345,464, filed on Jun. 3, 2016, provisional application No. 62/345,449, filed on Jun. 3, 2016, provi-



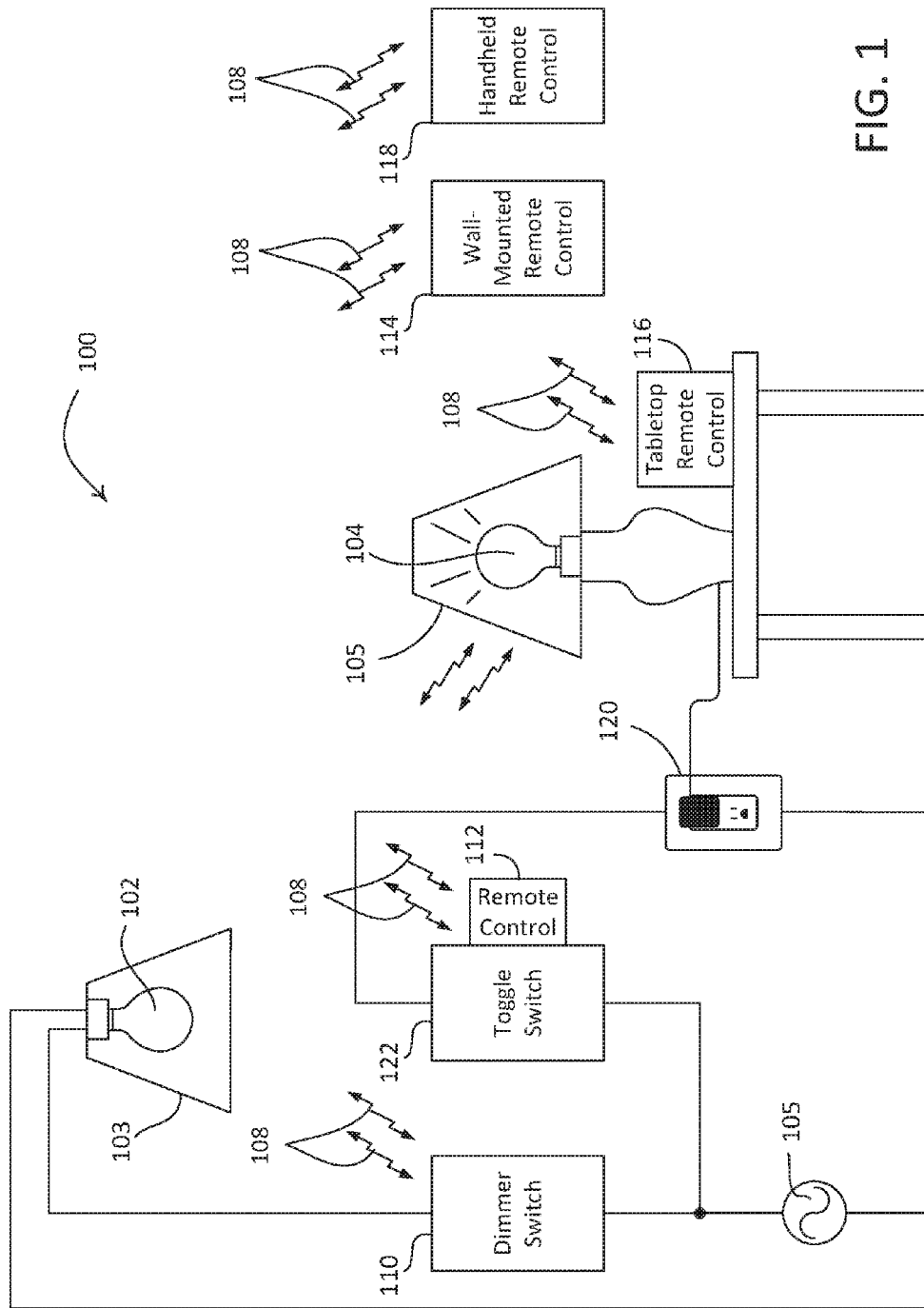


FIG. 1

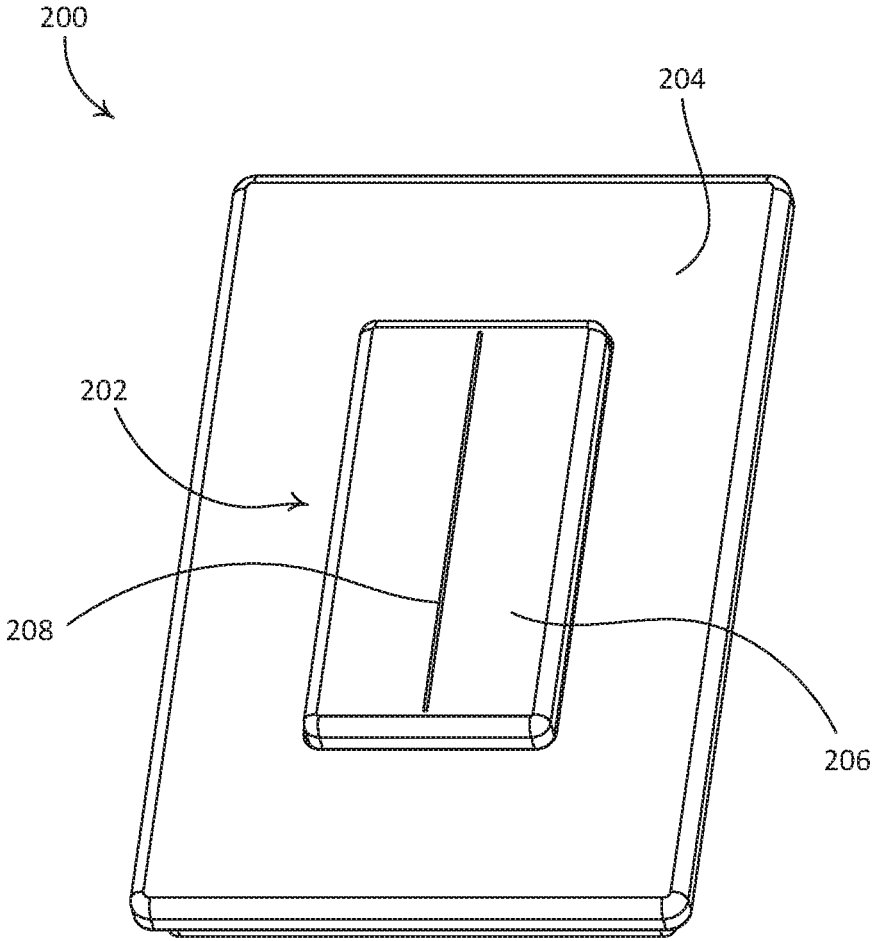


FIG. 2

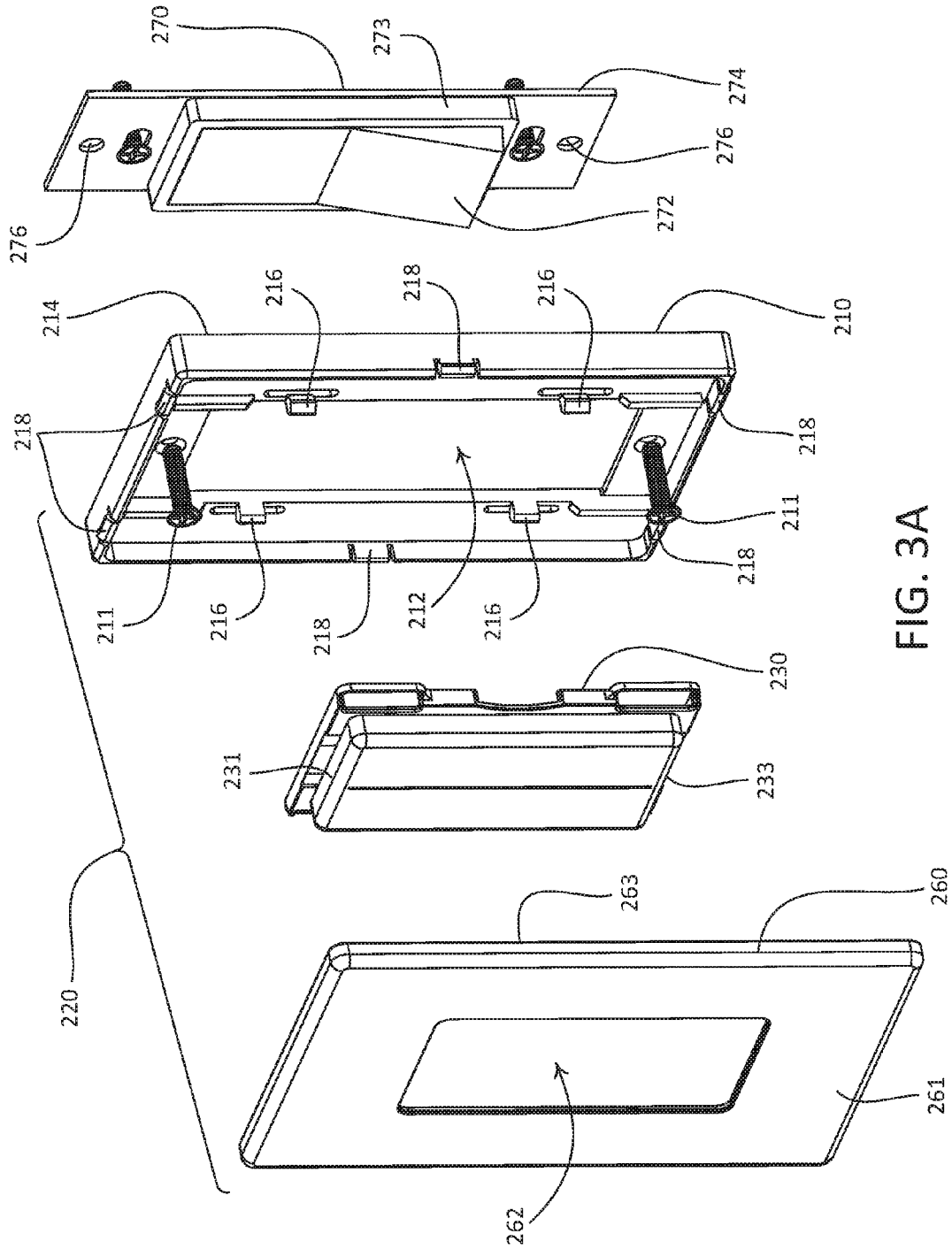


FIG. 3A

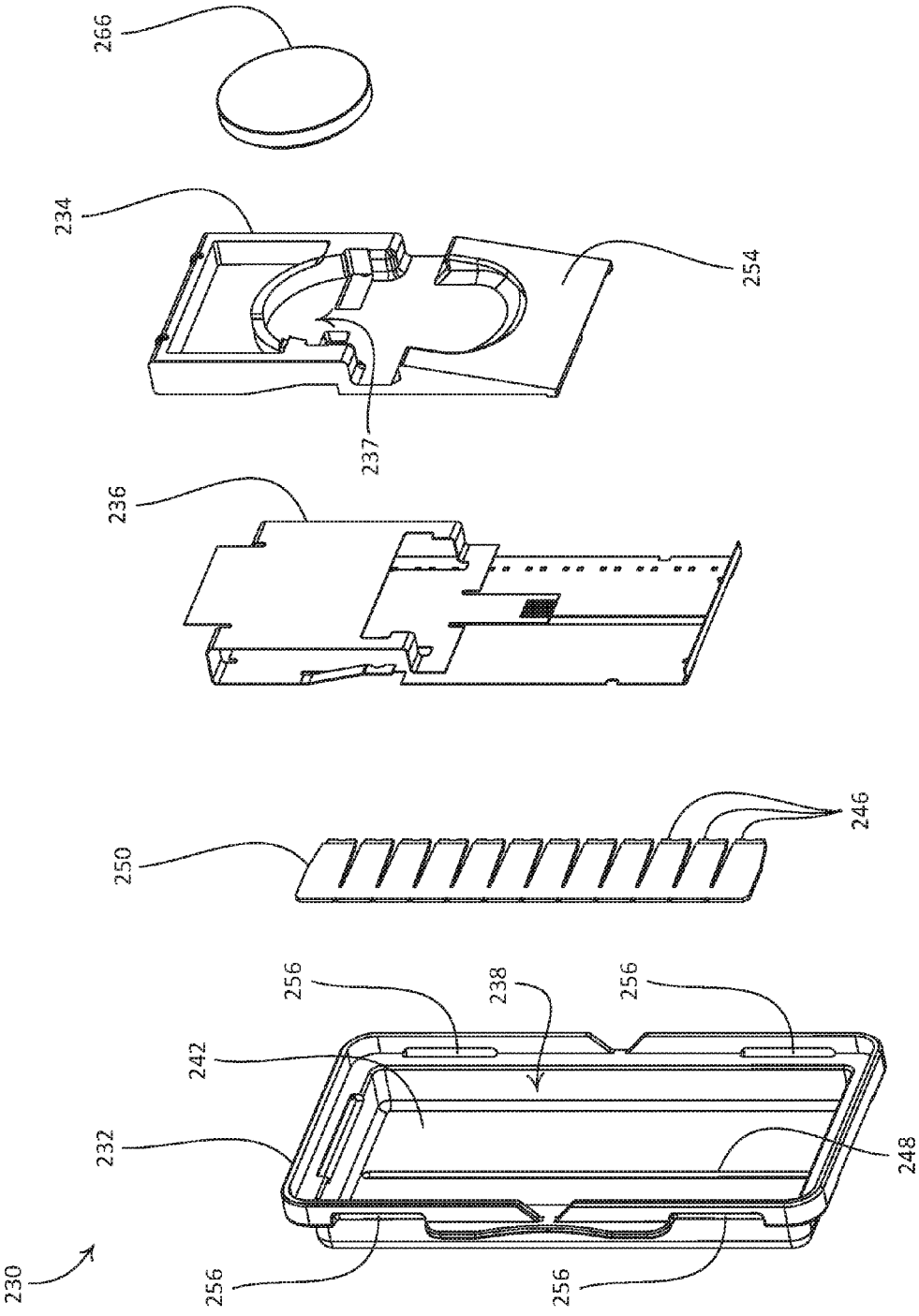


FIG. 3B

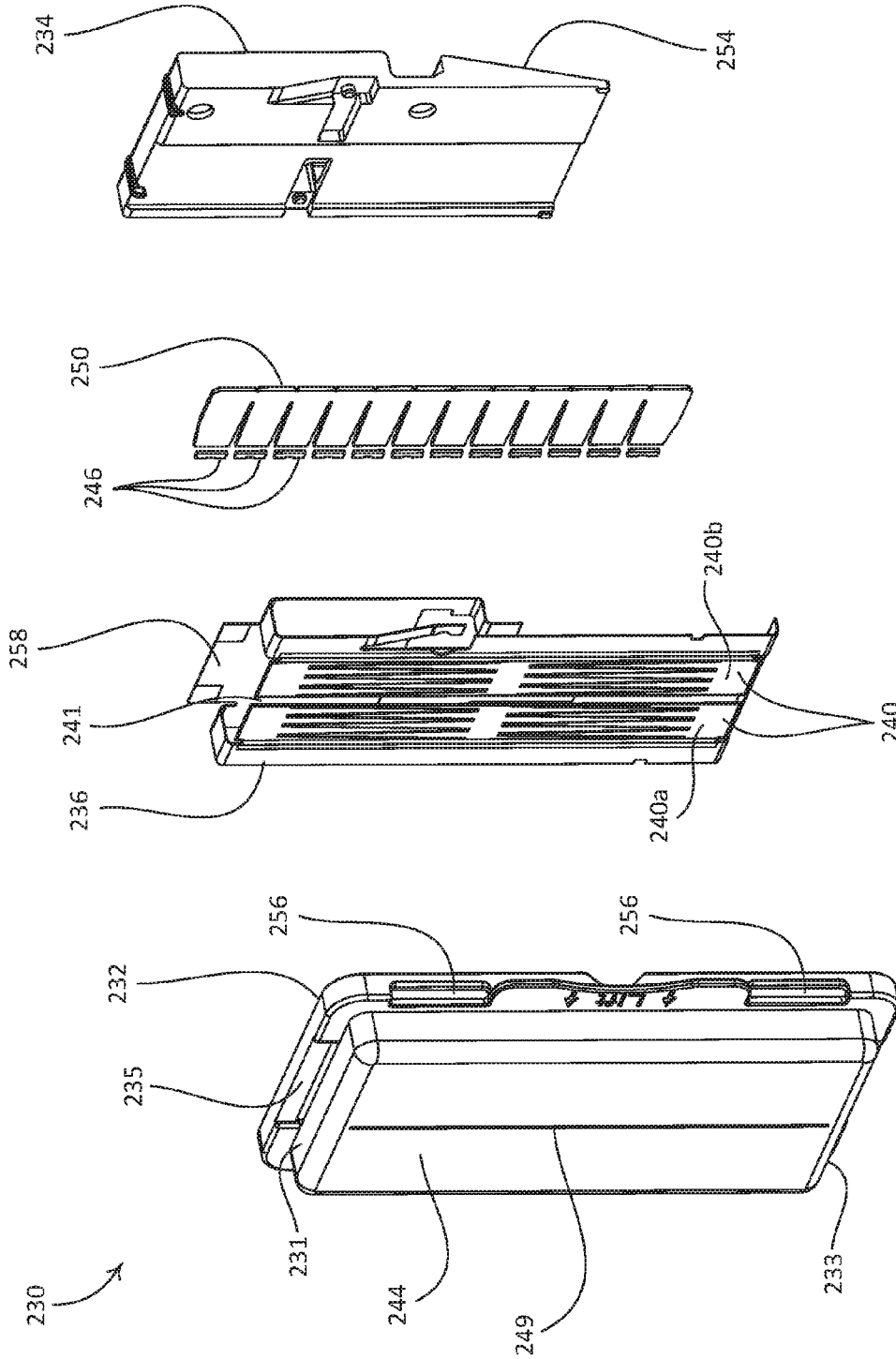


FIG. 3C

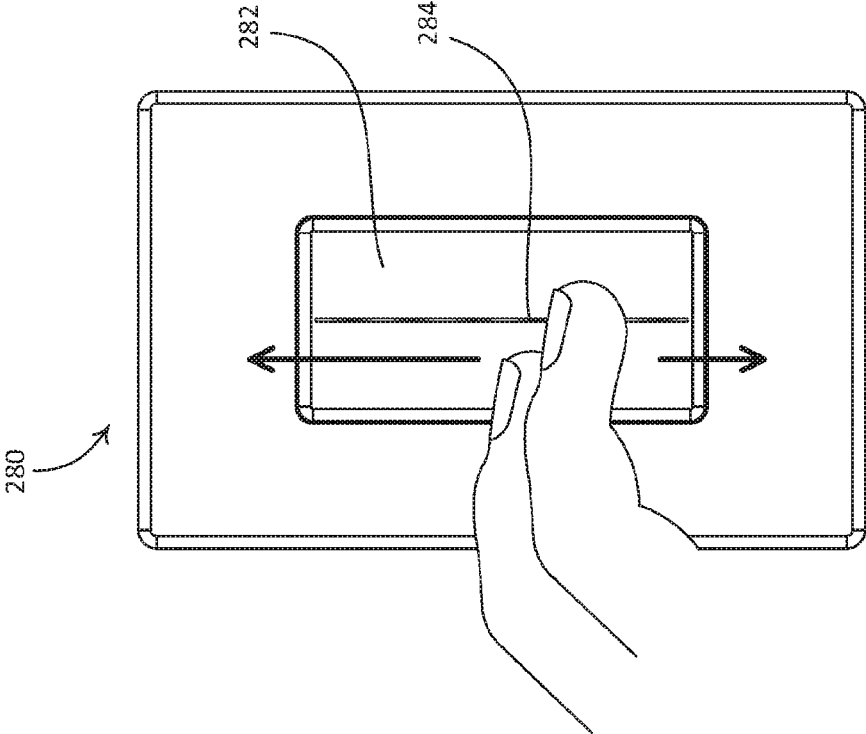


FIG. 4A

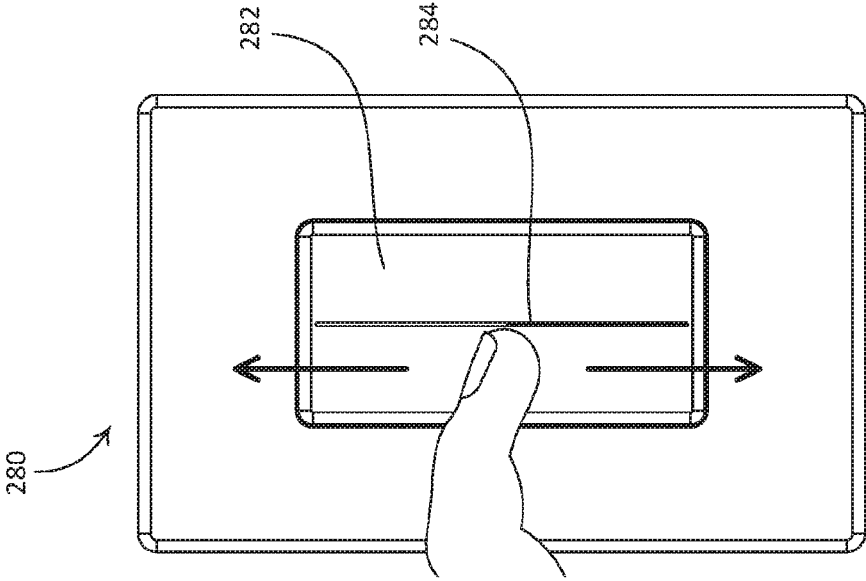


FIG. 4B

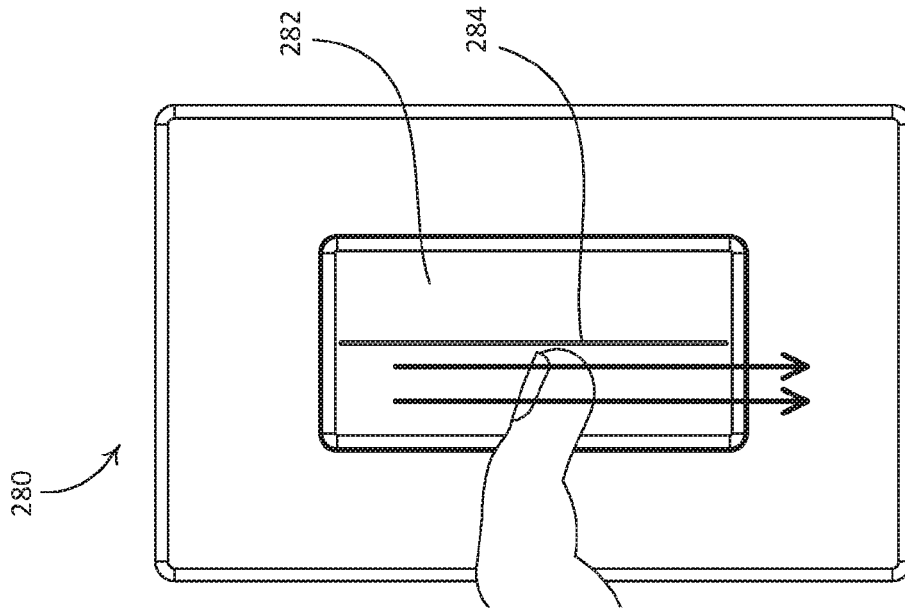


FIG. 4D

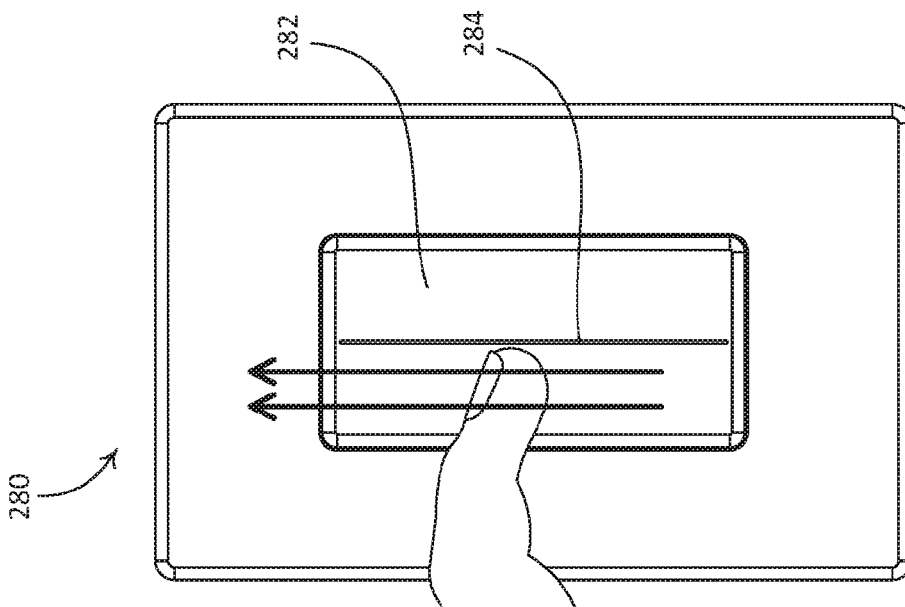


FIG. 4C



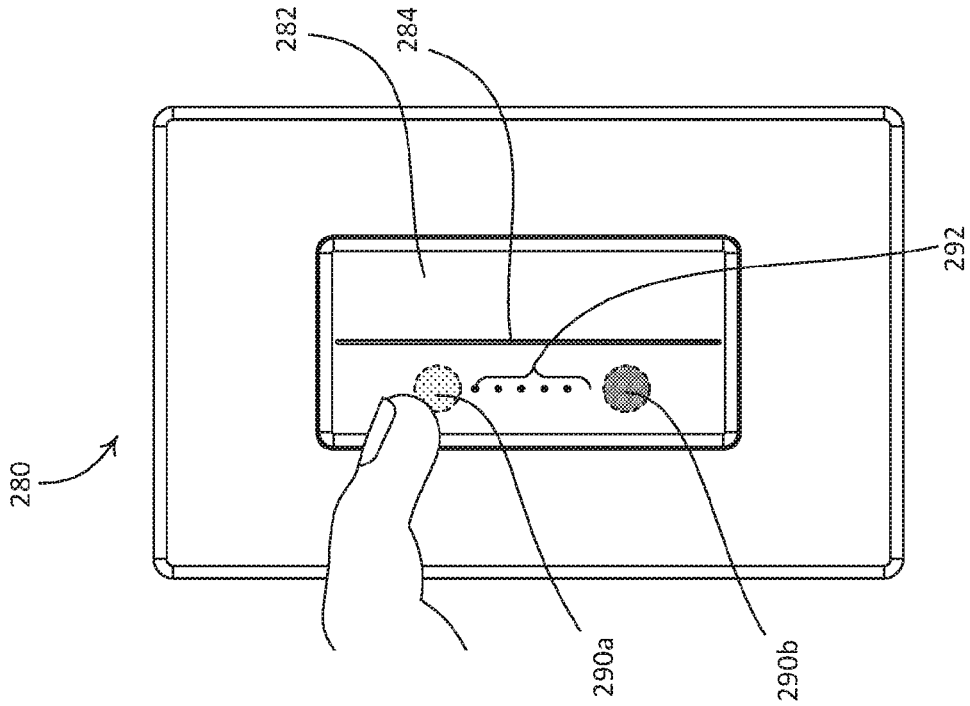


FIG. 4E

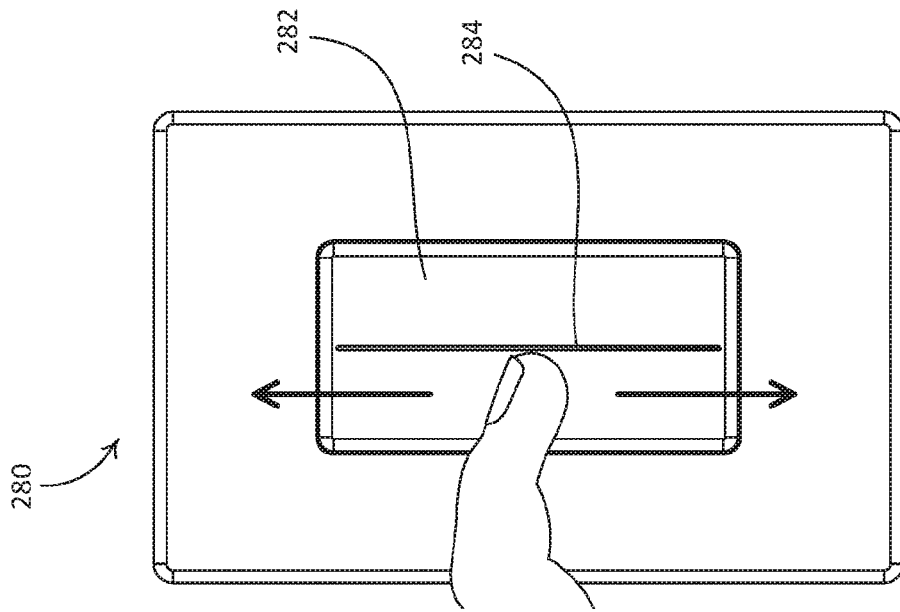


FIG. 4F

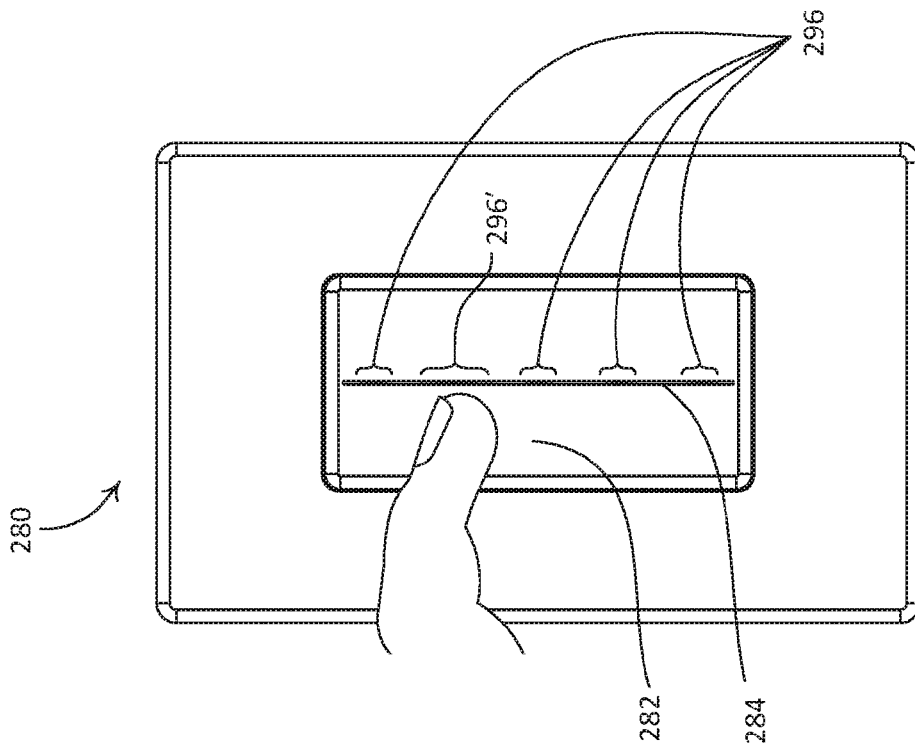


FIG. 4H

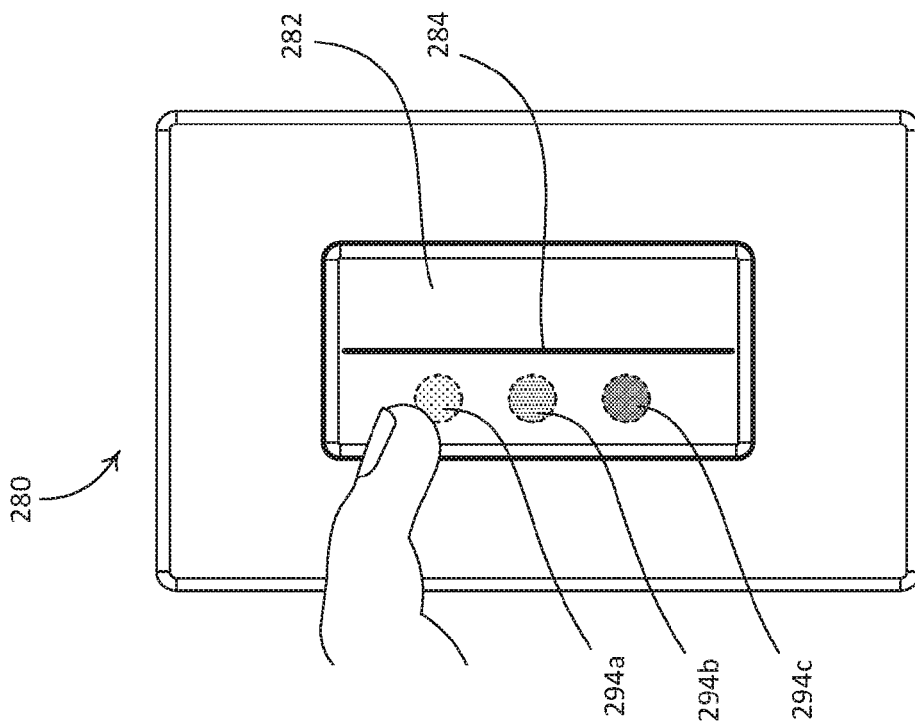


FIG. 4G

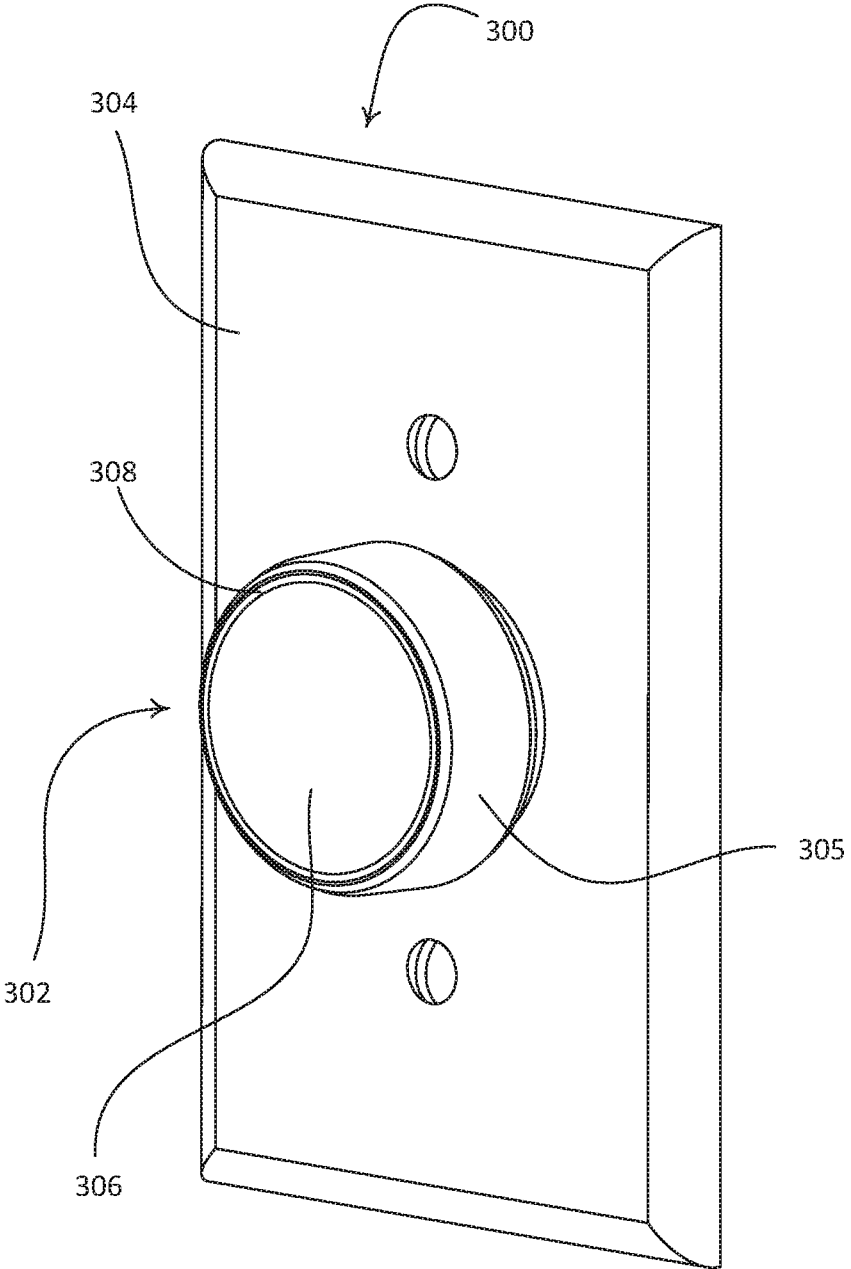


FIG. 5

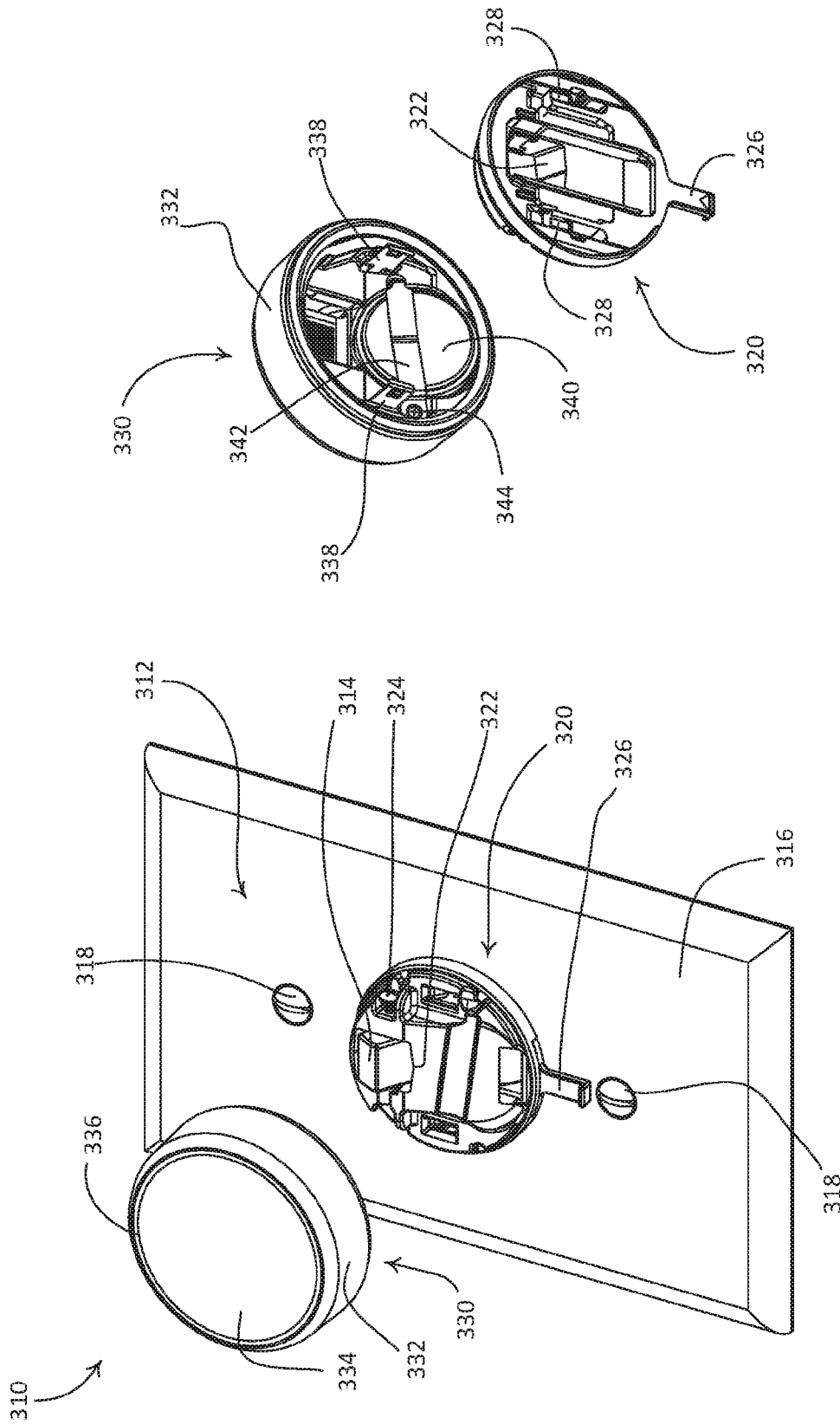


FIG. 6B

FIG. 6A

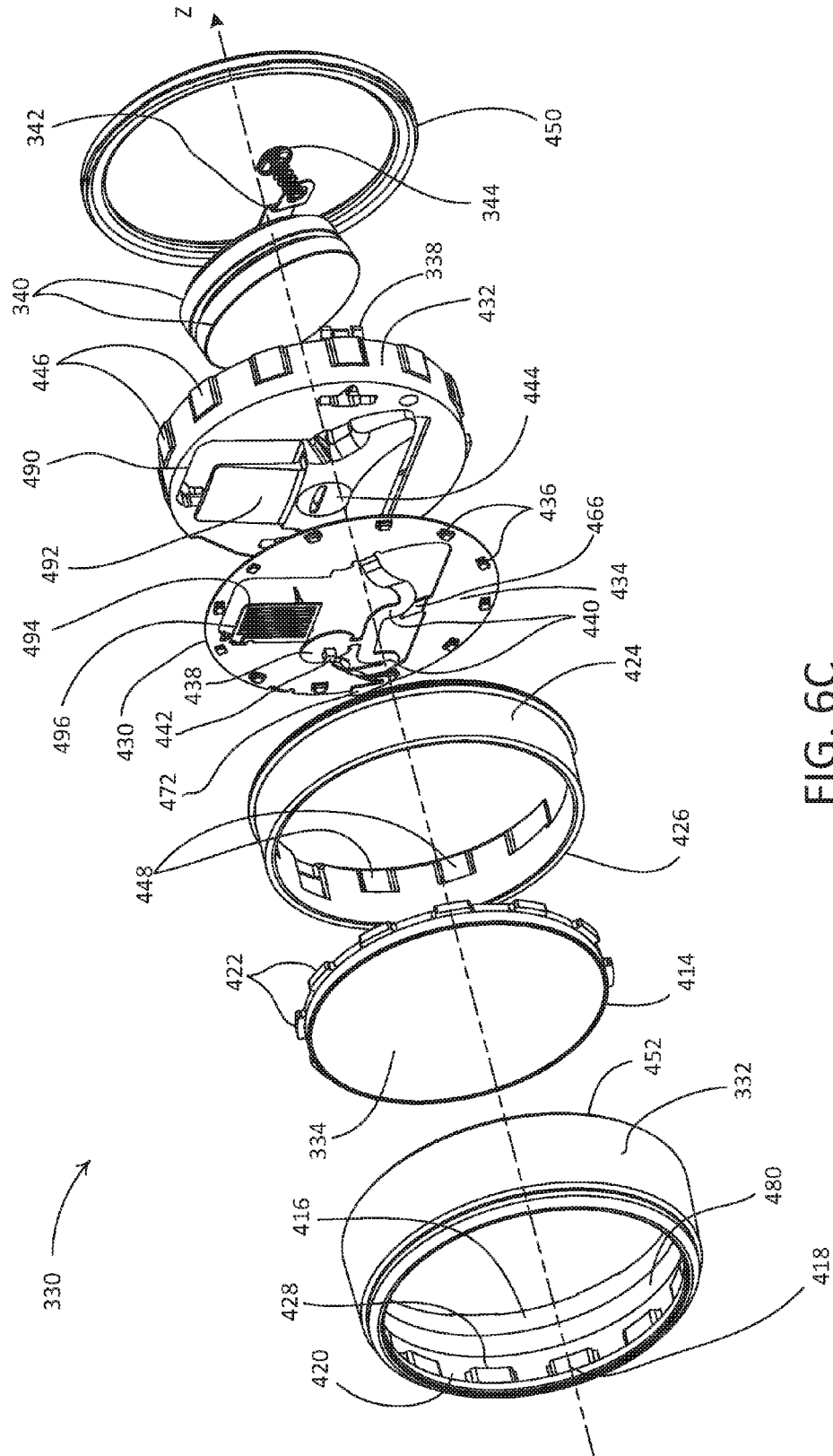


FIG. 6C

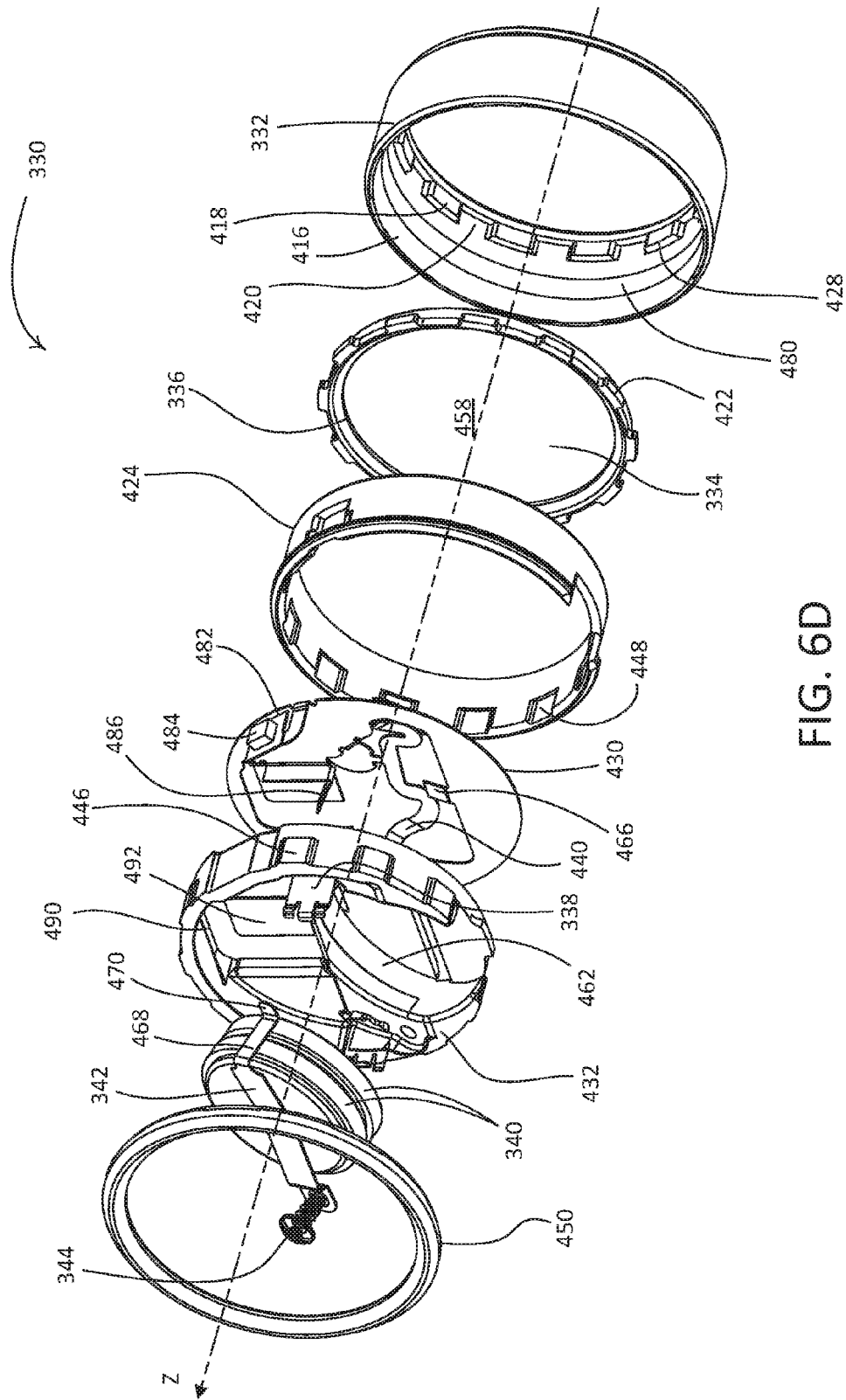


FIG. 6D

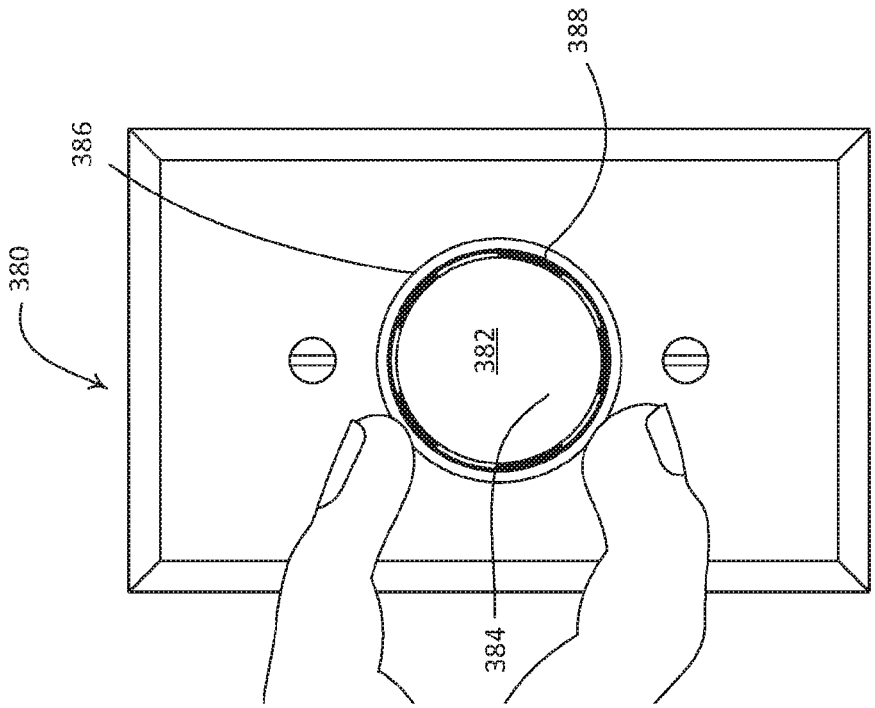


FIG. 7A

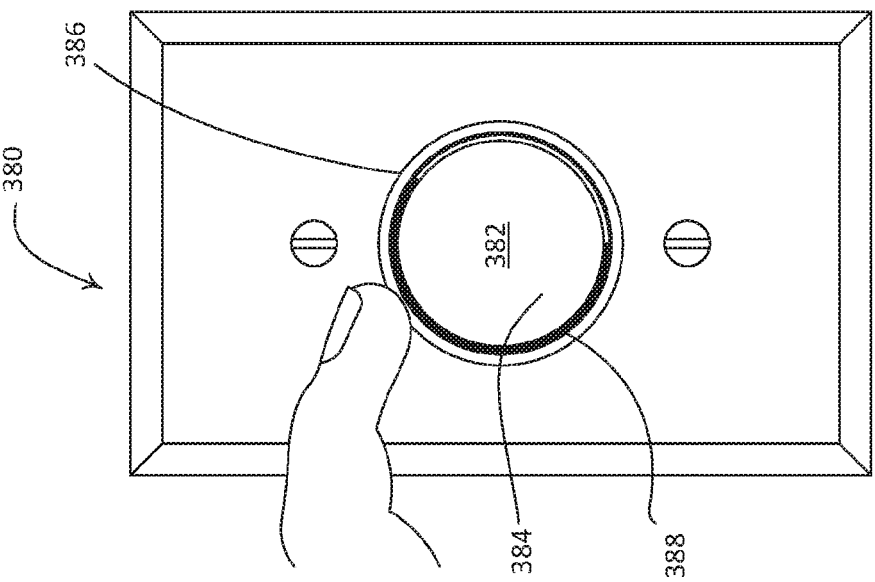


FIG. 7B

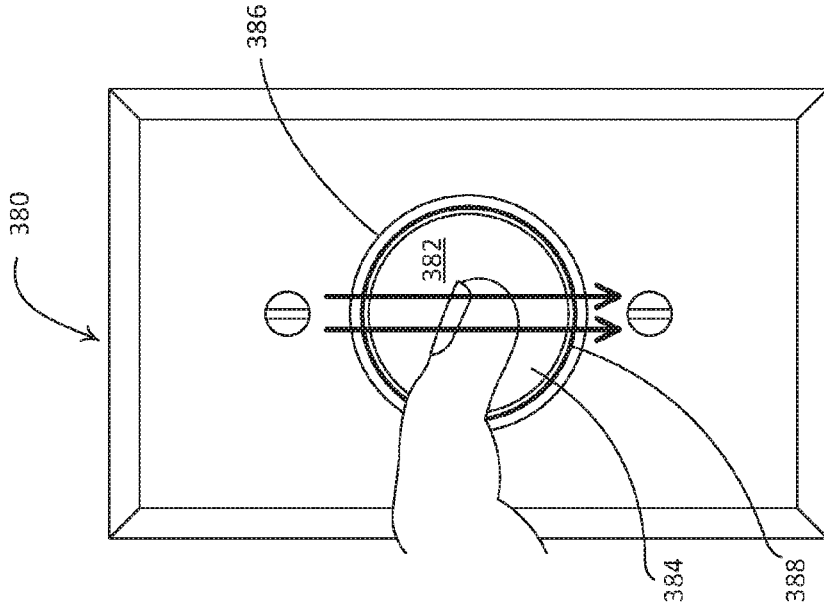


FIG. 7D

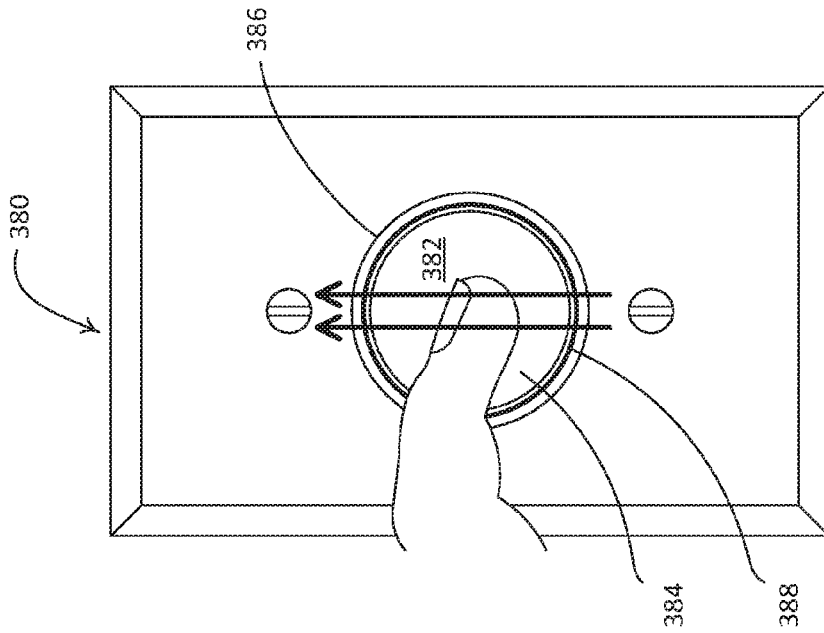


FIG. 7C



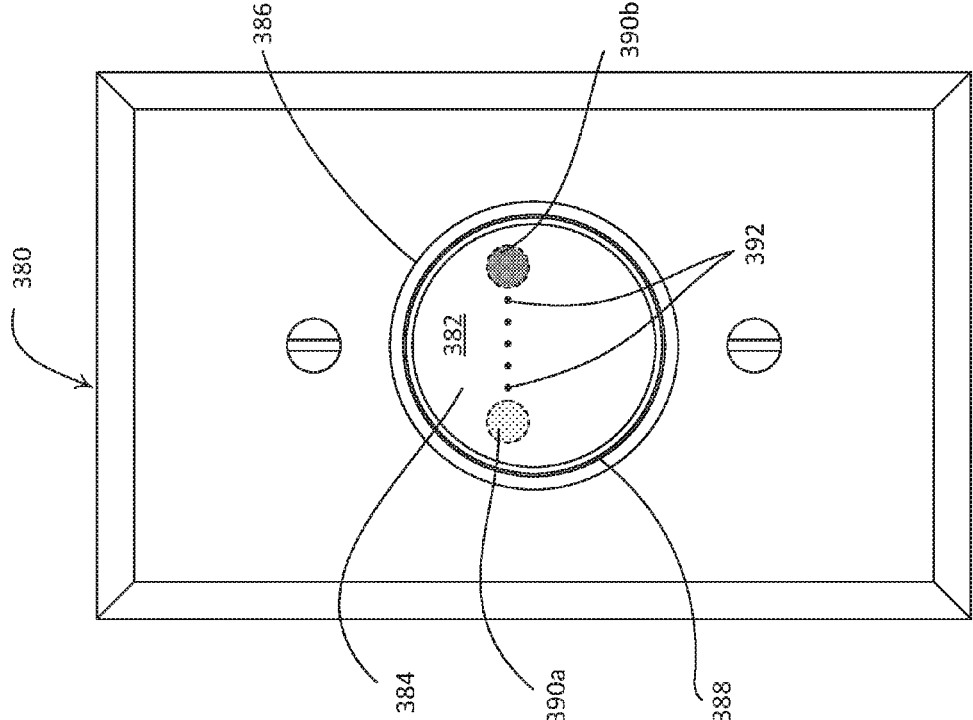


FIG. 7E

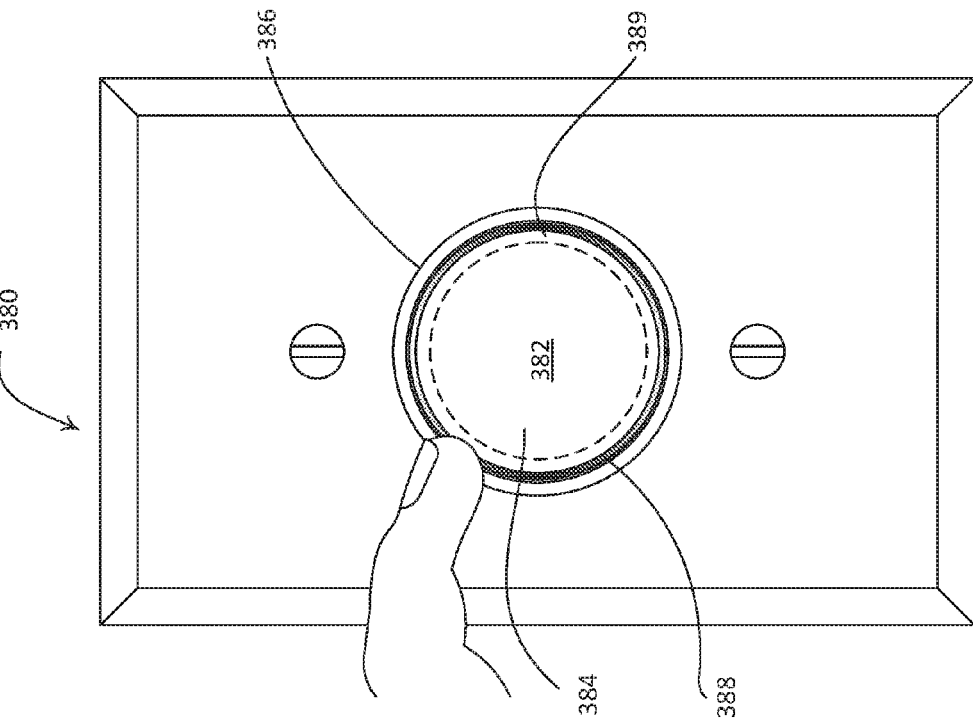


FIG. 7F

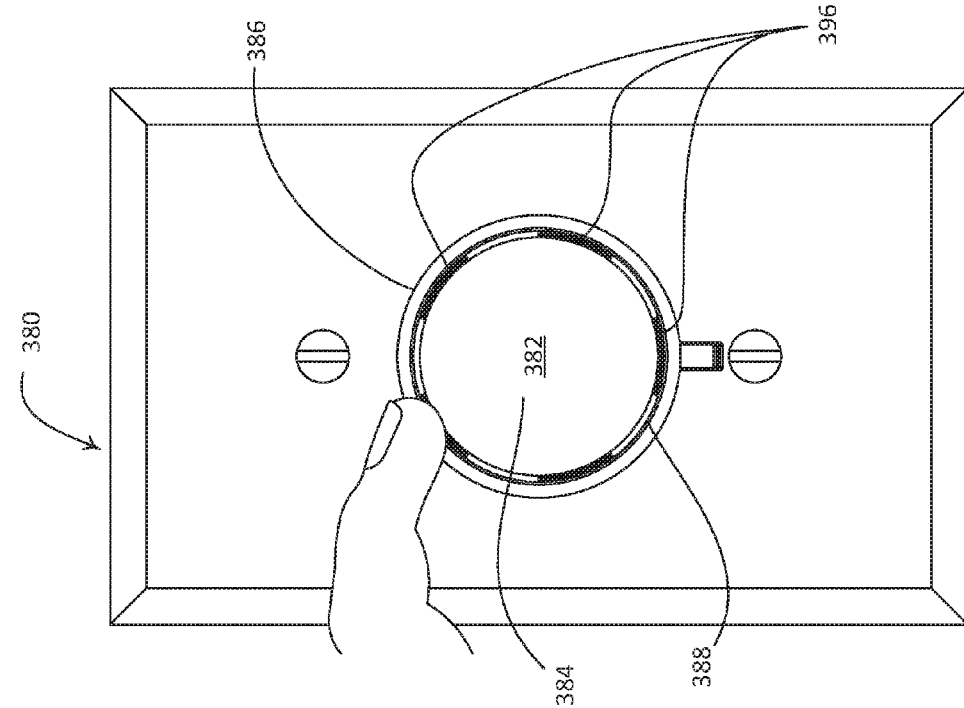


FIG. 7H

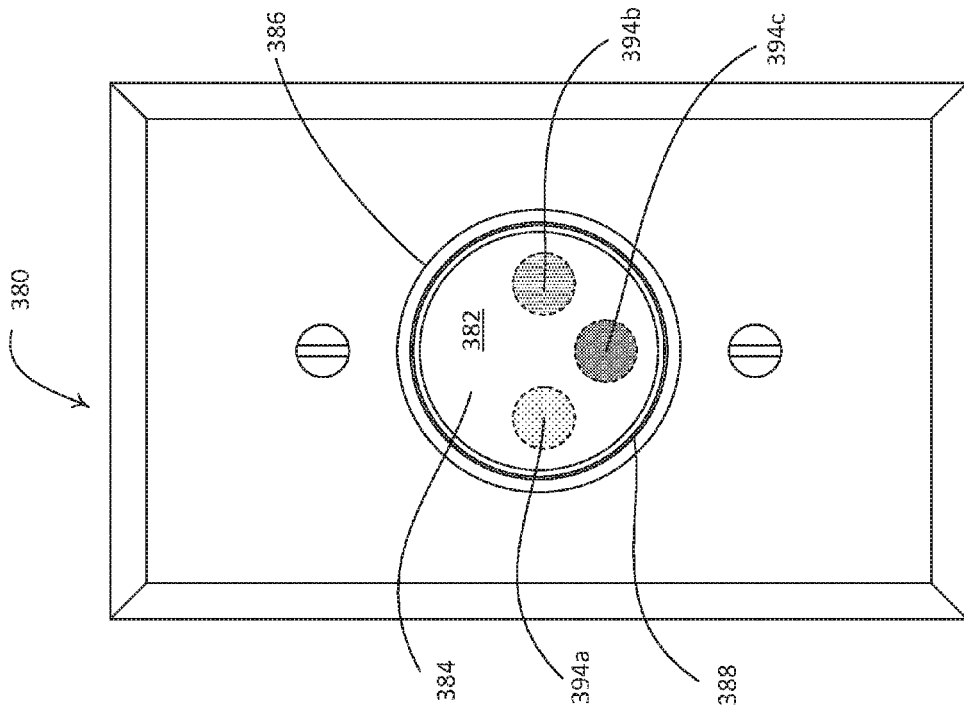


FIG. 7G

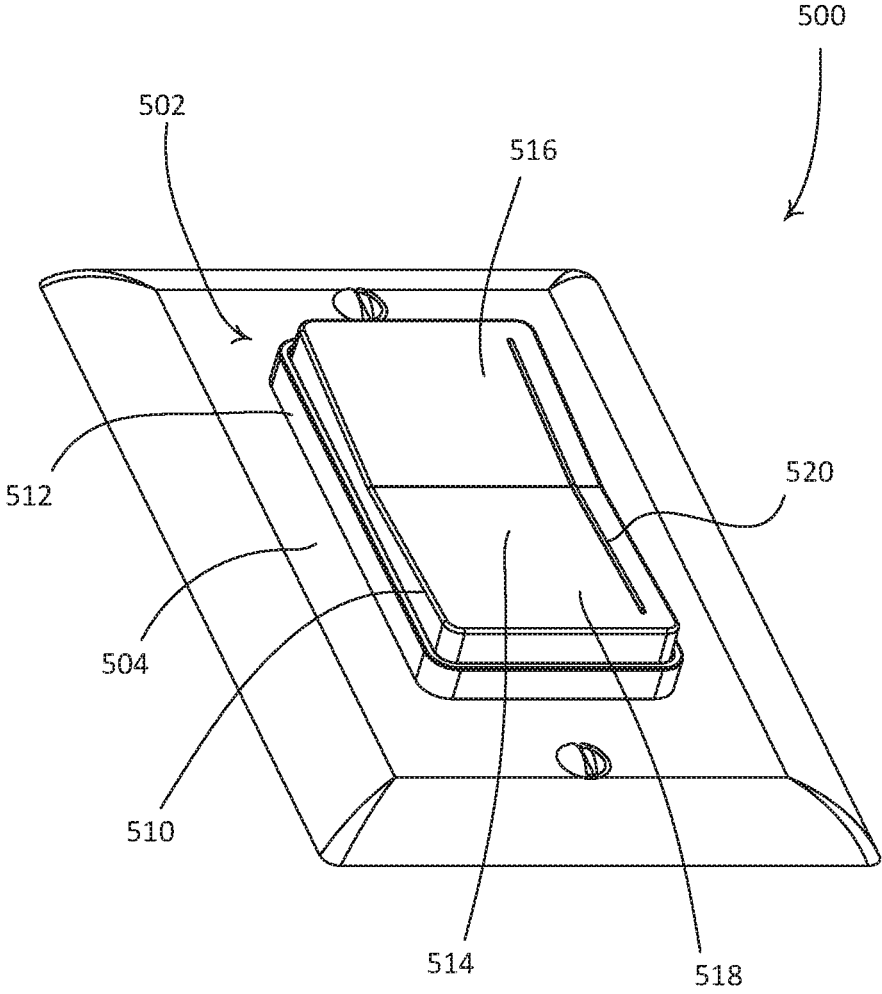


FIG. 8

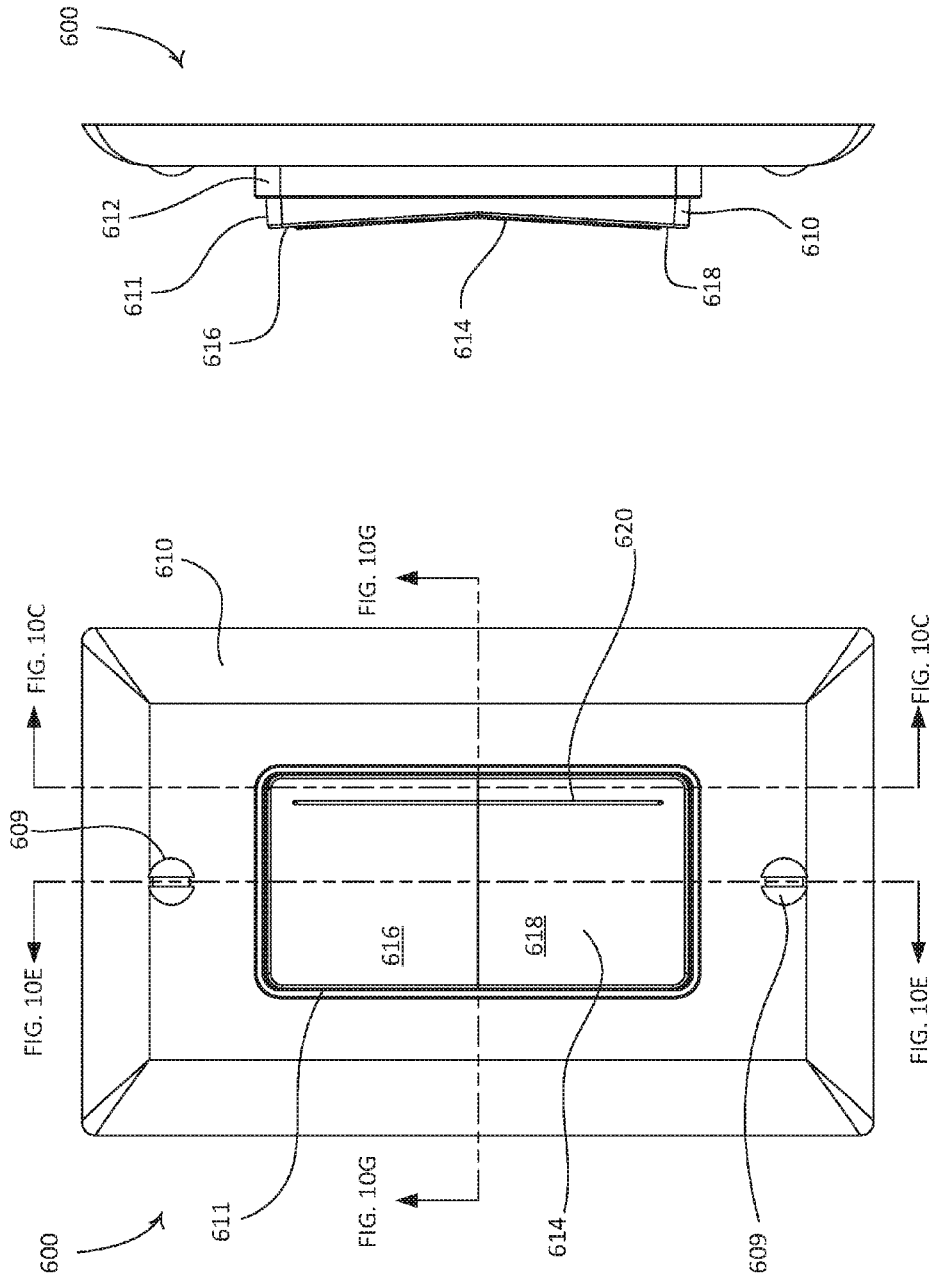


FIG. 9B

FIG. 9A

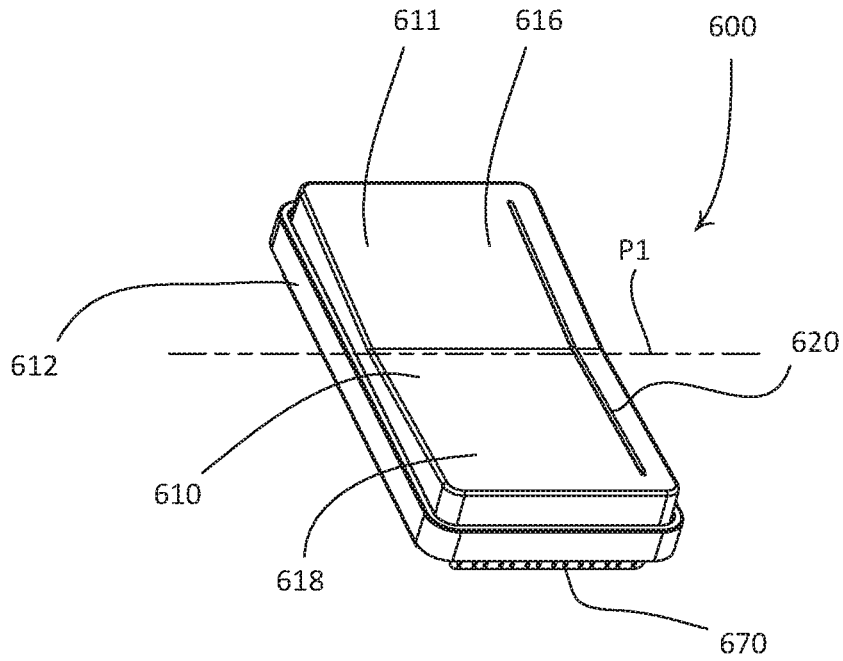


FIG. 10A

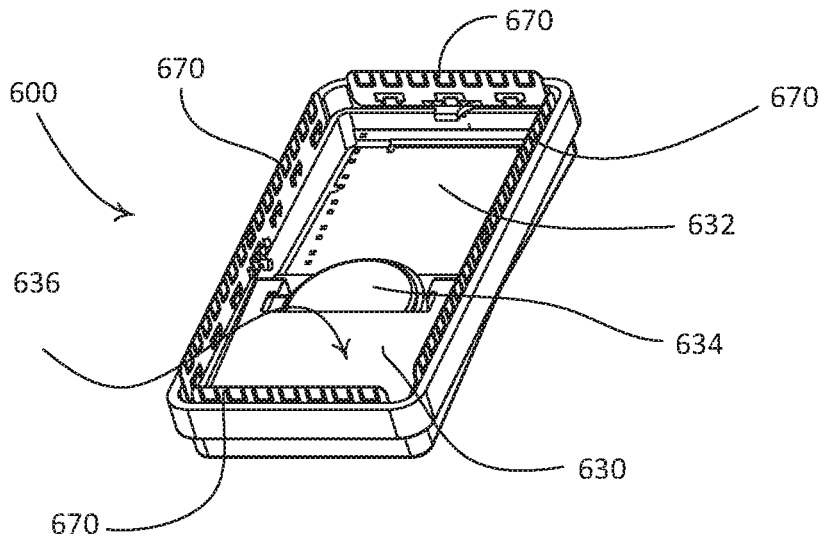


FIG. 10B

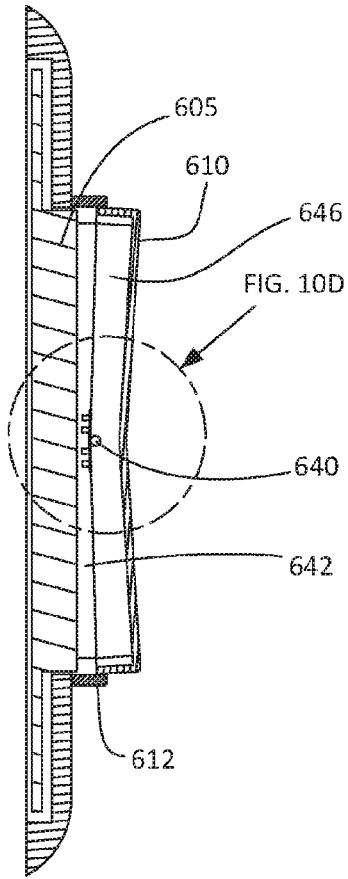


FIG. 10C

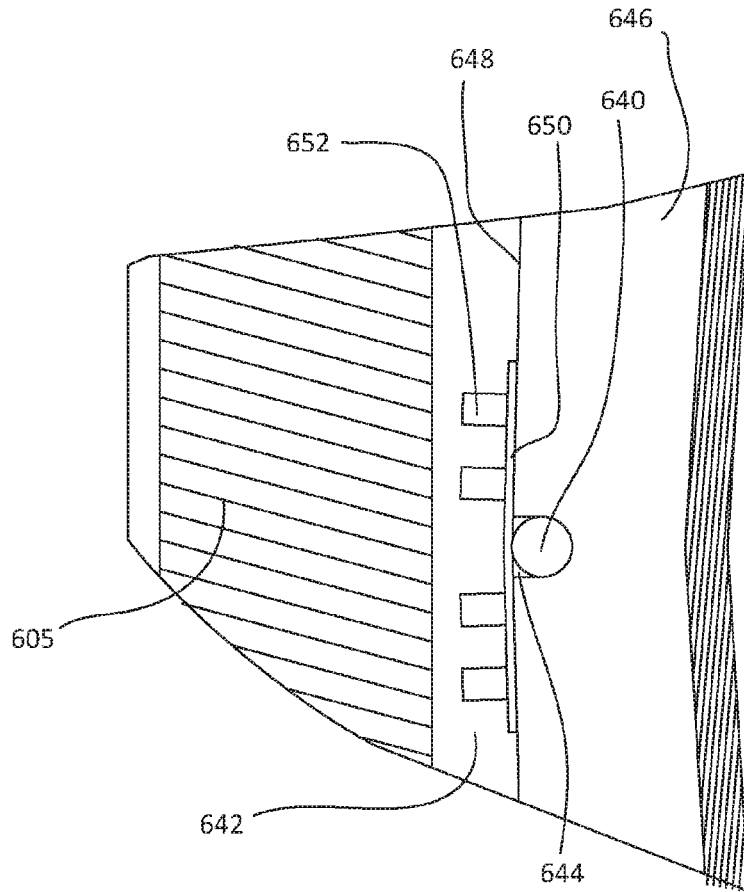


FIG. 10D

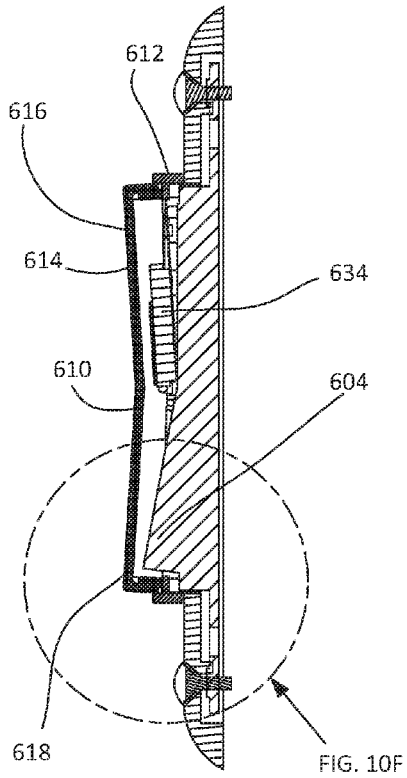


FIG. 10E

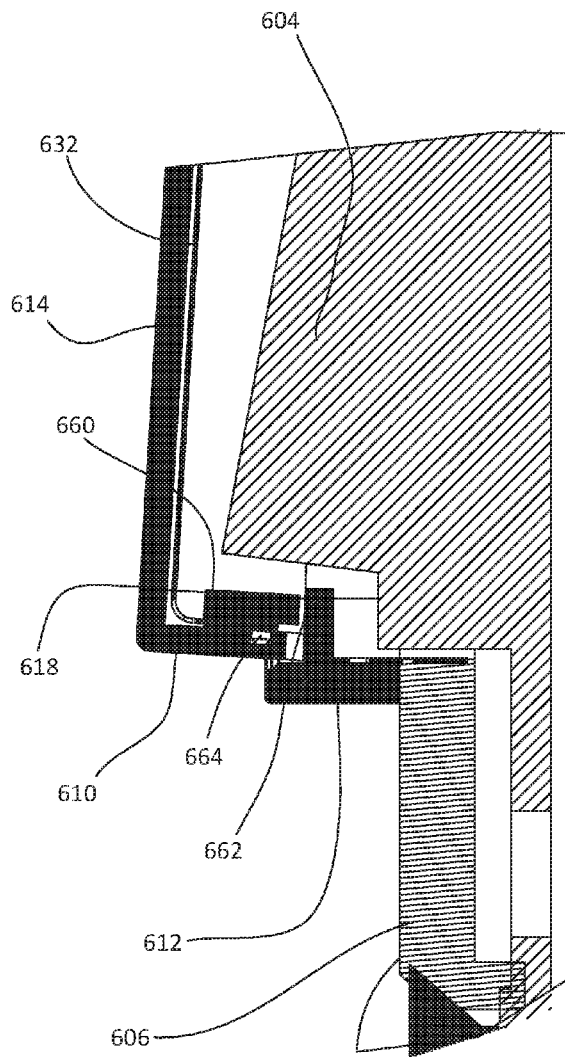


FIG. 10F

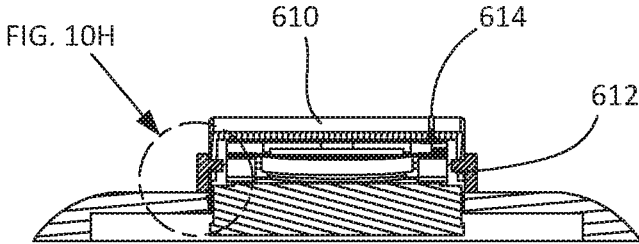


FIG. 10G

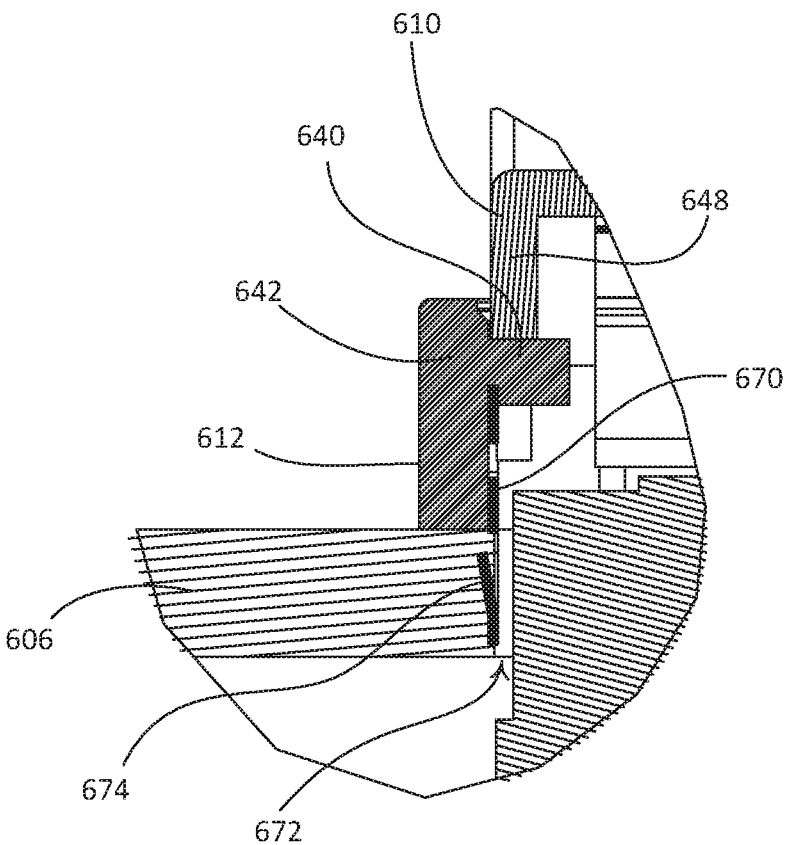


FIG. 10H



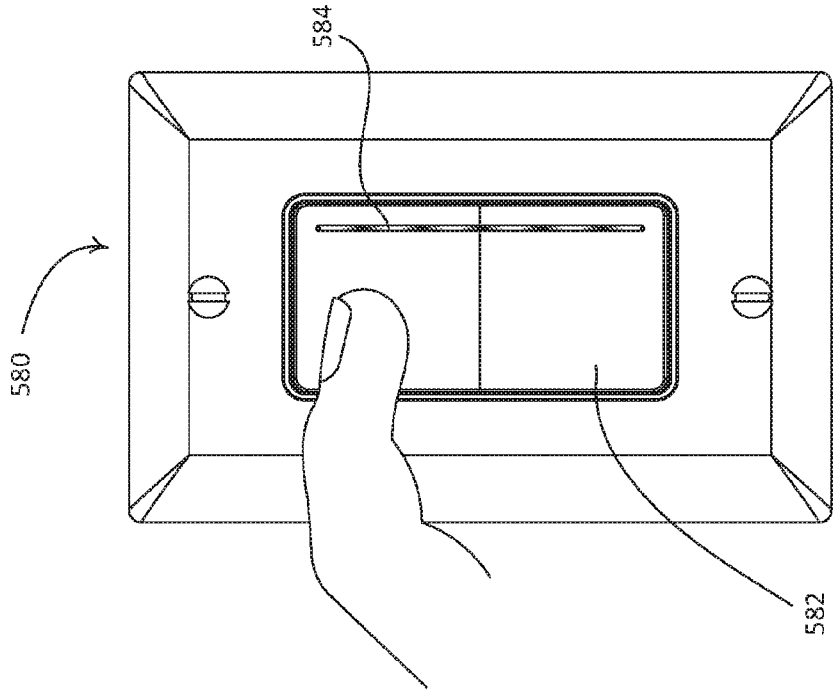


FIG. 11A

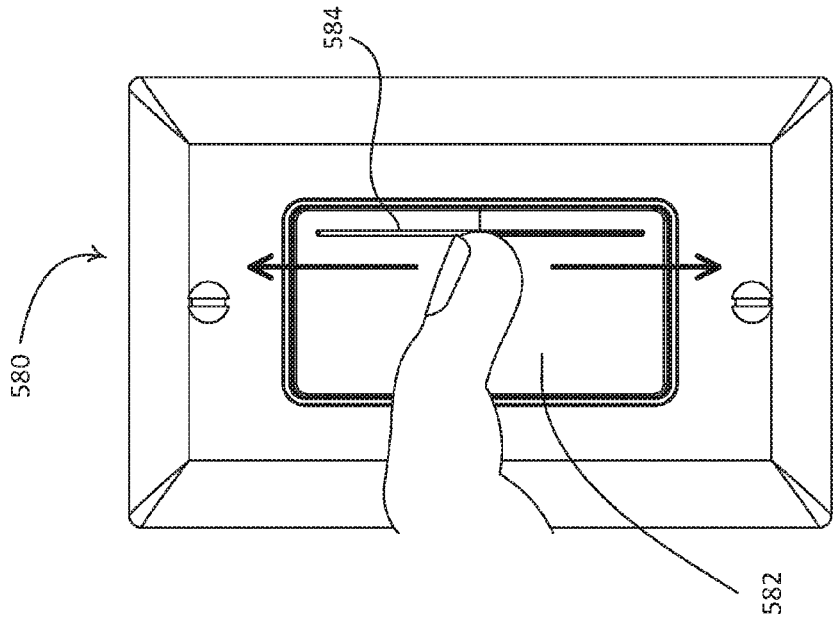


FIG. 11B

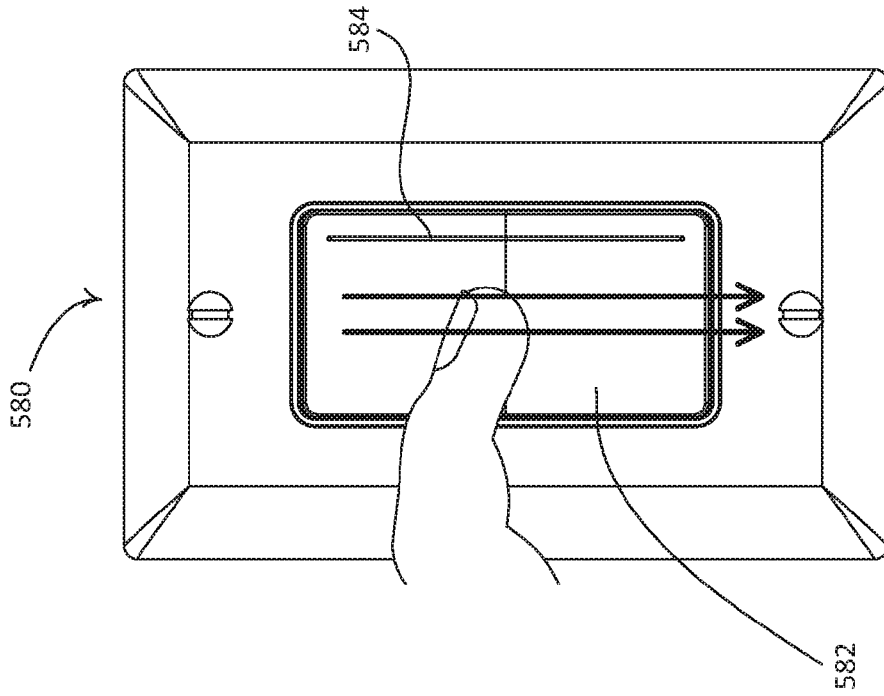


FIG. 11D

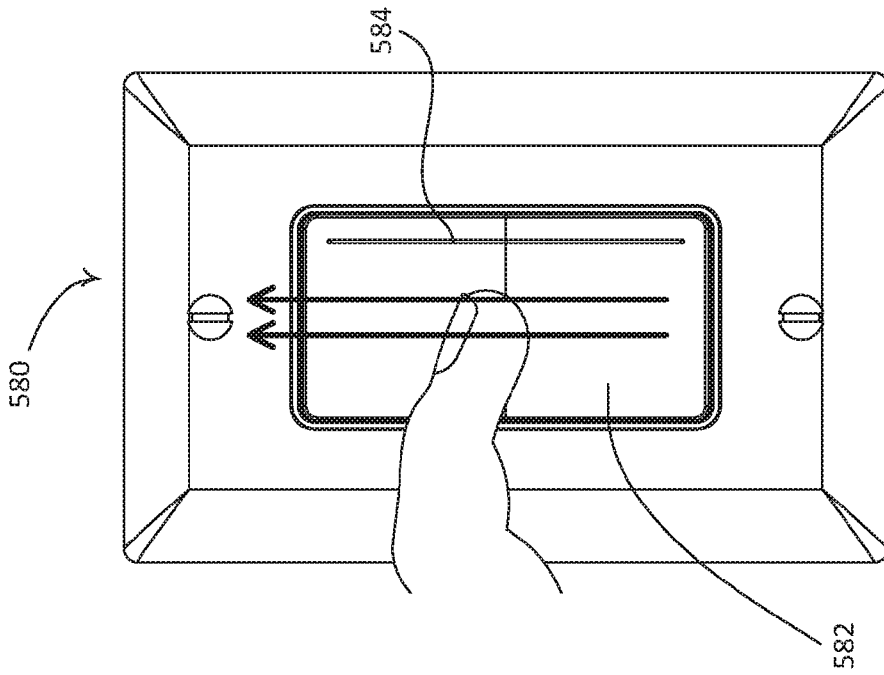


FIG. 11C

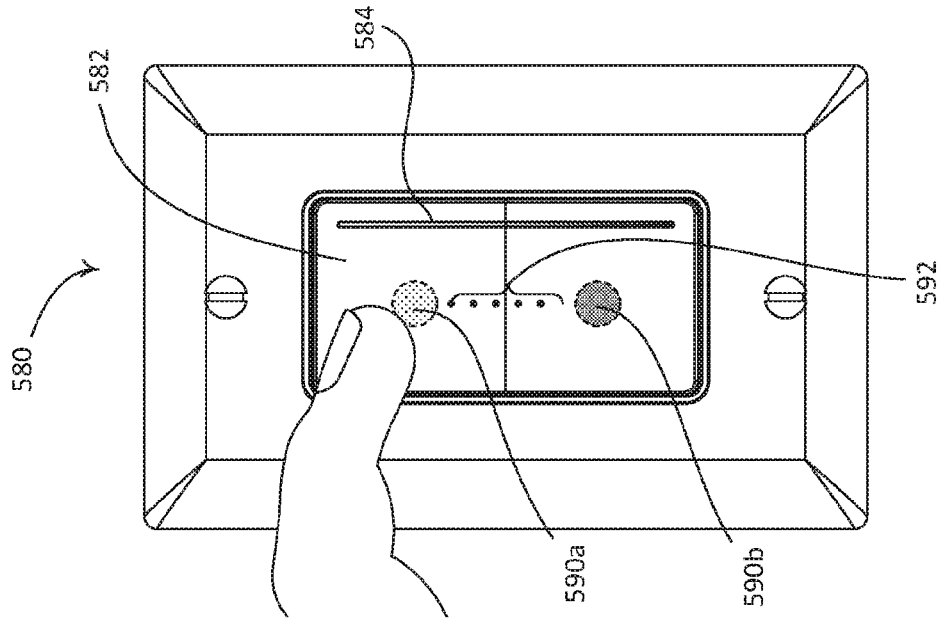


FIG. 11F

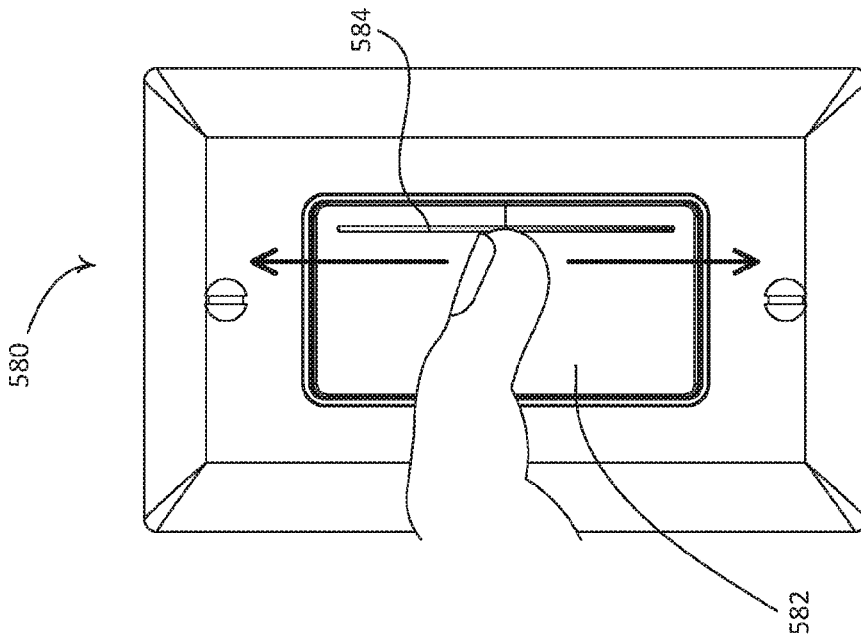


FIG. 11E

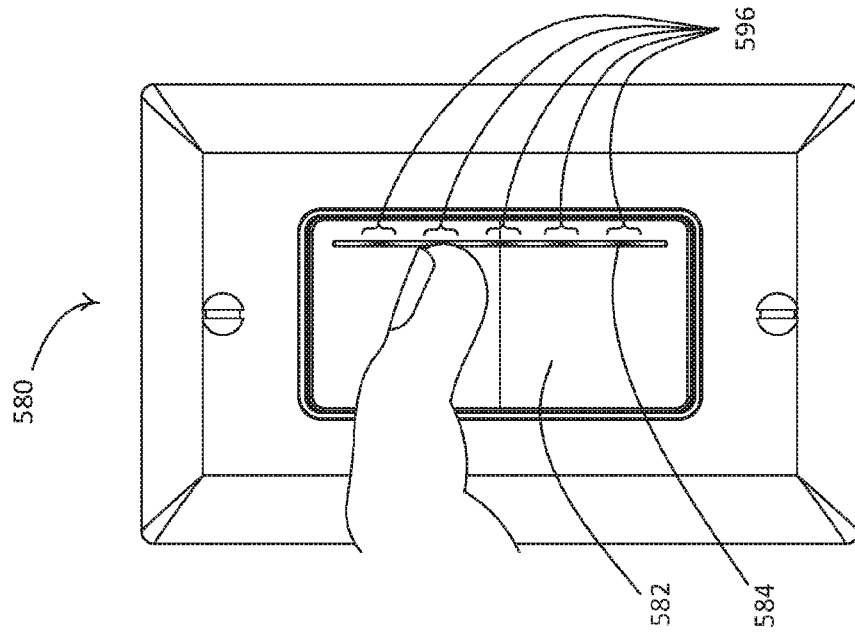


FIG. 11G

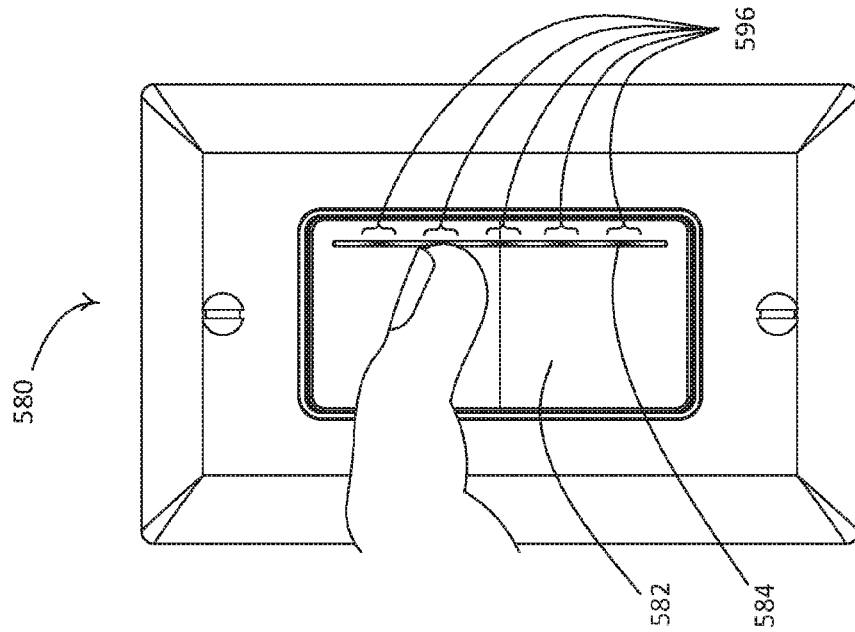


FIG. 11H

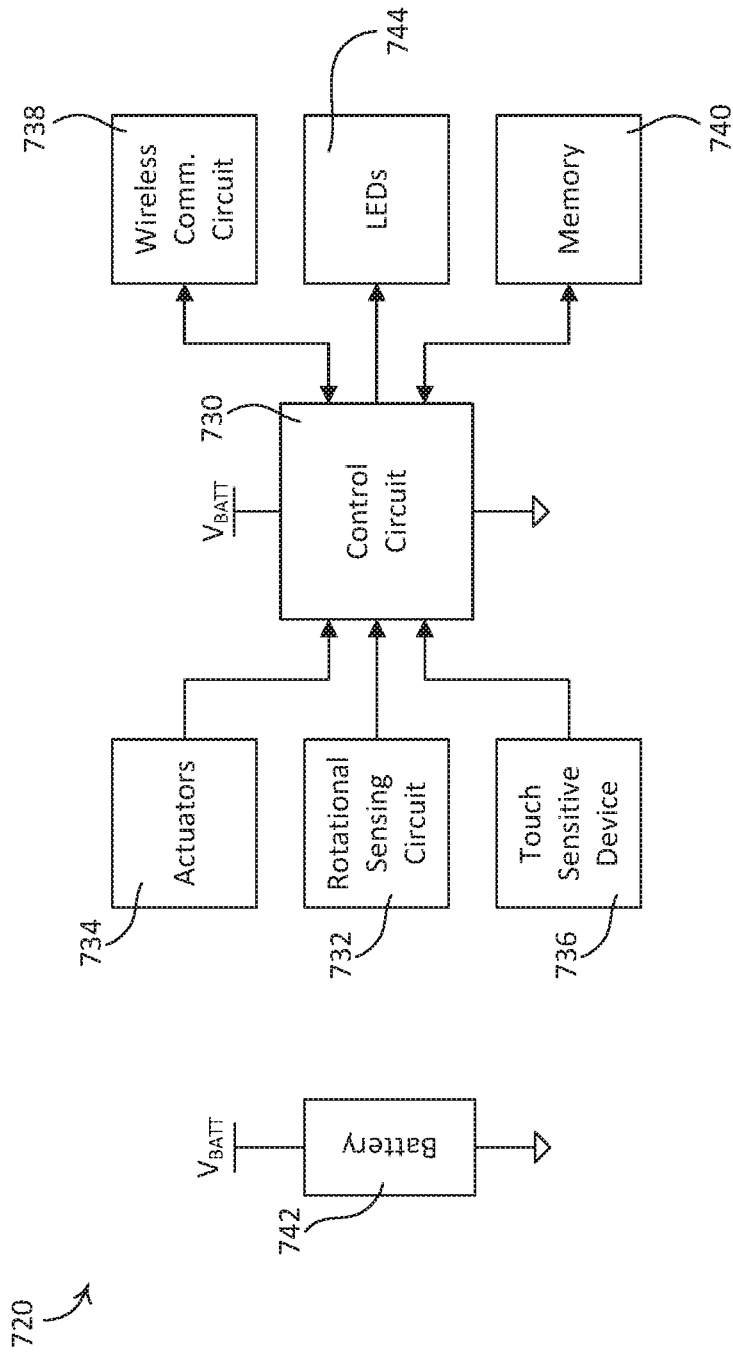


FIG. 12

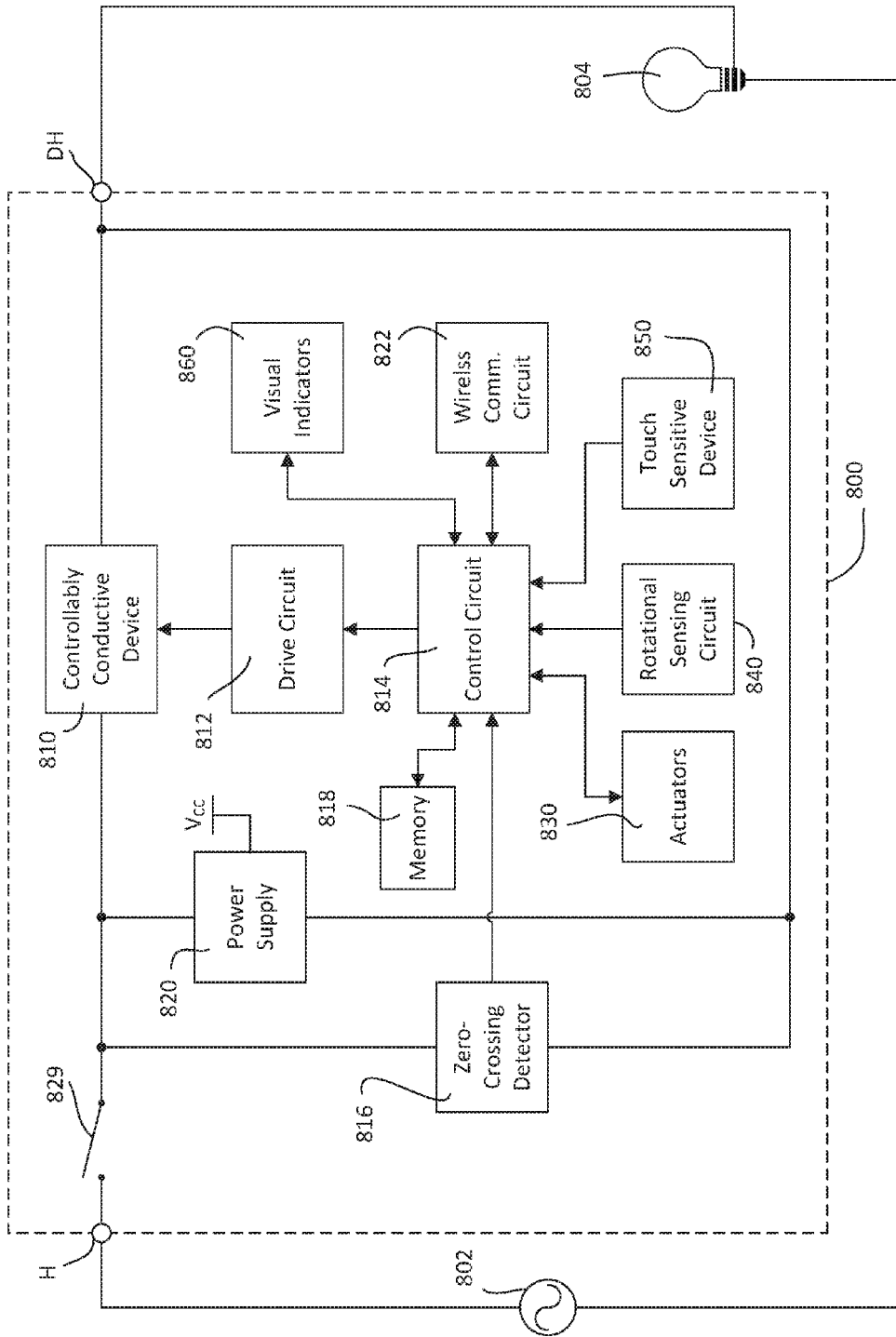


FIG. 13

## GESTURE-BASED CONTROL DEVICE FOR CONTROLLING AN ELECTRICAL LOAD

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/312,863, filed Mar. 24, 2016, Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/345,449, filed Jun. 3, 2016, Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/345,222, filed Jun. 3, 2016, Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/345,464, filed Jun. 3, 2016, Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/356,007, filed Jun. 29, 2016, Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/356,179, filed Jun. 29, 2016, Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/356,288, filed Jun. 29, 2016, and Provisional U.S. Patent Application No. 62/411,223, filed Oct. 21, 2016, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

### BACKGROUND

[0002] A load control system may include one or more electrical loads that a user may wish to control via a single load control device. These electrical loads may include, for example, lighting loads, HVAC units, motorized window treatment or projection screens, humidity control units, audio systems or amplifiers, Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and/or the like. The electrical loads may have advanced features. For example, a lighting load may be controlled to emit light of varying intensities and/or colors in response to a user command. The amount of power delivered to the electrical loads may be adjusted to an absolute level or by a relative amount. Multiple electrical loads may be manipulated such that one or more presets or scenes (e.g., combinations of particular lighting conditions, temperature settings, speaker volume, and/or the like) may be created, and a user may desire the ability to browse through the presets or scenes, and activate one that fits a particular occasion. With a traditional load control device such as a mechanical toggle switch, a user will not be able to perform any of the aforementioned functions, let alone performing multiple of them through one device.

[0003] The insufficiencies of traditional load control devices arise at least in part from the actuation mechanism utilized in those devices. More specifically, traditional load control devices are typically only capable of responding to simple user actions such as moving a lever or pushing a button. As such, the number and/or types of control that may be applied through a load control device is limited. To meet the demand of advanced electrical loads, there is a need to employ alternative user interface technologies such as those capable of detecting human gestures and translating the gestures into control data (e.g., control signals) for controlling the electrical loads. These technologies may expand the capacity of a load control device, while at the same time enhancing its usability and aesthetic appeal, for example.

[0004] A traditional load control device may also lack the capacity to provide visual feedback to a user about the operation of the load control device and/or the electrical loads controlled by the load control devices. Such capacity is an important aspect of user experience in an advanced load control system where a user may be able to manipulate multiple operating parameters of an electrical load or to control multiple electrical loads via a single control device.

Provision of feedback in those environments can keep the user informed about the state and/or mode of the control device and electrical loads, and may help the user navigate through the various functionalities of the control device.

### SUMMARY

[0005] As described herein, a control device may be configured for use in a lighting control system to control respective amount of power delivered to a plurality of lighting loads. The control device may be external to the plurality of lighting loads, and may include a user input device, a control circuit, and a communication circuit. The user input device may be configured to detect a first user input and a second user input and may include a touch sensitive surface. The control circuit may be configured to generate first control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads to an absolute power level based on the first user input. The control circuit may be further configured to generate second control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads by a relative amount based on the second user input. The communication circuit may be configured to transmit a first control signal including the first control data and a second control signal including the second control data.

[0006] The control device may further include a load control circuit adapted to be electrically coupled in series between an AC power source and the plurality of lighting loads for controlling power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads. Alternatively, the control device may be configured to be mounted over a toggle actuator of a mechanical switch that controls whether power is delivered to the plurality of lighting loads. The control device may further include one or more visual indicators configured to be illuminated by one or more light sources. The one or more visual indicators may comprise a light bar. The one or more visual indicators may be provided on the touch sensitive surface.

[0007] The control device may be configured to map a plurality of locations on the touch sensitive surface adjacent to the one or more visual indicators to respective absolute power levels that range between a minimum power level and a maximum power level. The first user input may be a one-finger touch applied to one of the plurality of locations on the touch sensitive surface, and the control circuit may be configured to generate the first control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads to the absolute power level mapped to the one of the plurality of locations. The control device may be configured to illuminate the one or more visual indicators in response to the first user input to indicate the absolute power level.

[0008] The second user input may be a multi-finger slide applied on the touch sensitive surface, and the control circuit may be configured to generate the second control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads by a relative adjustment amount based on a length of the multi-finger slide.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1 depicts an example load control system that includes one or more example control devices.

[0010] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of an example control device that may be deployed as a dimmer switch and/or a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0011] FIG. 3A is an exploded view of an example remote control device that may be deployed as a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0012] FIG. 3B is an exploded rear perspective view of a control unit component of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 3A.

[0013] FIG. 3C is an exploded front perspective view of the control unit component of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 3A.

[0014] FIG. 4A depicts an example of applying absolute control over an electrical load using an example control device that may be deployed as a dimmer switch and/or a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0015] FIG. 4B depicts an example of applying relative control over an electrical load using the example control device illustrated in FIG. 4A.

[0016] FIG. 4C depicts an example of using a gesture to control an electrical load via the example control device illustrated in FIG. 4A.

[0017] FIG. 4D depicts another example of using a gesture to control an electrical load via the example control device illustrated in FIG. 4A.

[0018] FIG. 4E depicts an example of applying color control over a lighting load using a light bar located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 4A.

[0019] FIG. 4F depicts an example of applying color control over a lighting load using backlit virtual buttons located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 4A.

[0020] FIG. 4G depicts an example of preset selection using backlit virtual buttons located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 4A.

[0021] FIG. 4H depicts an example of preset selection using a light bar located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 4A.

[0022] FIG. 5 is a perspective view of another example control device that may be deployed as a dimmer switch and/or a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0023] FIG. 6A is a perspective view of an example remote control device that may be deployed as a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1 with a control module detached from a base portion.

[0024] FIG. 6B are rear views of the control module and the base portion of the remote control device depicted in FIG. 6A.

[0025] FIG. 6C is a front exploded view of the control module for the remote control device depicted in FIG. 6A.

[0026] FIG. 6D shows a rear exploded view of the control module for the example remote control device depicted in FIG. 6C.

[0027] FIG. 7A depicts an example of applying absolute control over an electrical load using an example control device that may be deployed as a load control device and/or a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0028] FIG. 7B depicts an example of applying relative control over an electrical load using the example control device illustrated in FIG. 7A.

[0029] FIG. 7C depicts an example of using a gesture to control an electrical load via the example control device illustrated in FIG. 7A.

[0030] FIG. 7D depicts another example of using a gesture to control an electrical load via the example control device illustrated in FIG. 7A.

[0031] FIG. 7E depicts an example of applying color control over a lighting load using a light bar located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 7A.

[0032] FIG. 7F depicts an example of applying color control over a lighting load using backlit virtual buttons located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 7A.

[0033] FIG. 7G depicts an example of preset selection using backlit virtual buttons located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 7A.

[0034] FIG. 7H depicts an example of preset selection using a light bar located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 7A.

[0035] FIG. 8 is perspective view of another example control device that may be deployed as a dimmer switch and/or a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0036] FIG. 9A is a front view of an example remote control device that may be deployed as a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0037] FIG. 9B is a right side view of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 9A.

[0038] FIG. 10A is a front perspective view of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 9A, with the remote control device unmounted from a light switch that the remote control device is configured to be mounted on.

[0039] FIG. 10B is a rear perspective view of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 9A, with the remote control device unmounted from the light switch.

[0040] FIG. 10C is a front view of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 9A, with the remote control device unmounted from the light switch.

[0041] FIG. 10D is a right side view of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 9A, with the remote control device unmounted from the light switch.

[0042] FIG. 10E is a bottom view of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 9A, with the remote control device unmounted from the light switch.

[0043] FIG. 10F is a rear view of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 9A, with the remote control device unmounted from the light switch.

[0044] FIG. 10G is a bottom sectional view of the example remote control device illustrated in FIG. 9A.

[0045] FIG. 10H is an enlarged portion of the sectional view depicted in FIG. 10G.

[0046] FIG. 11A depicts an example of applying absolute control over an electrical load using an example control device that may be deployed as a dimmer switch and/or a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0047] FIG. 11B depicts an example of applying relative control over an electrical load using the example control device illustrated in FIG. 11A.

[0048] FIG. 11C depicts an example of using a gesture to control an electrical load via the example control device illustrated in FIG. 11A.

[0049] FIG. 11D depicts another example of using a gesture to control an electrical load via the example control device illustrated in FIG. 11A.



[0050] FIG. 11E depicts an example of applying color control over a lighting load using a light bar located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 11A.

[0051] FIG. 11F depicts an example of applying color control over a lighting load using backlit virtual buttons located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 11A.

[0052] FIG. 11G depicts an example of preset selection using backlit virtual buttons located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 11A.

[0053] FIG. 11H depicts an example of preset selection using a light bar located on the example control device illustrated in FIG. 11A.

[0054] FIG. 12 shows a simplified equivalent schematic diagram of an example control device that may be deployed as a remote control device of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

[0055] FIG. 13 shows a simplified equivalent schematic diagram of an example control device that may be deployed as a load control device (e.g., a dimmer switch) of the load control system illustrated in FIG. 1.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0056] FIG. 1 is a simplified block diagram of an example load control system. As shown, the load control system is configured as a lighting control system 100 for control of one or more lighting loads, such as a lighting load 102 that is installed in a ceiling-mounted downlight fixture 103 and a controllable lighting load 104 that is installed in a table lamp 105. The lighting loads 102, 104 shown in FIG. 1 may include light sources of different types (e.g., incandescent lamps, fluorescent lamps, and/or LED light sources). The lighting loads may have advanced features. For example, the lighting loads may be controlled to emit light of varying intensities and/or colors in response to a user command. The amount of power delivered to the lighting loads may be adjusted to an absolute level or by a relative amount. The lighting control system 100 may be configured to control one or more of the lighting loads (e.g., and/or other electrical loads) according to one or more configurable presets or scenes. These presets or scenes may correspond to, for example, predefined light intensities and/or colors, predefined entertainment settings such as music selection and/or volume settings, predefined window treatment settings such as positions of shades, predefined environmental settings such as HVAC settings, or any combination thereof. The presets or scenes may correspond to one or more specific electrical loads (e.g., bedside lamps, ceiling lights, etc.) and/or one or more specific locations (e.g., a room, an entire house, etc.).

[0057] The lighting load 102 may be an example of a lighting load that is wired into a power control and/or delivery path of the lighting control system 100. As such, the lighting load 102 may be controllable by a wall-mounted control device such as a dimmer switch. The lighting load 104 may be an example of a lighting load that is equipped with integral load control circuitry and/or wireless communication capabilities such that the lighting load may be controlled via a wireless control mechanism (e.g., by a remote control device).

[0058] The lighting control system 100 may include one or more control devices for controlling the lighting loads 102, 104 (e.g., controlling an amount of power delivered to the lighting loads). The lighting loads 102, 104 may be con-

trolled substantially in unison, or be controlled individually. For example, the lighting loads may be zoned so that the lighting load 102 may be controlled by a first control device, while the lighting load 104 may be controlled by a second control device. The control devices may be configured to turn the lighting loads 102, 104 on and off. The control devices may be configured to control the magnitude of a load current conducted through the lighting loads (e.g., so as to control an intensity of the lighting loads 102, 104 between a low-end intensity  $L_{LE}$  and a high-end intensity  $U_m$ ). The control devices may be configured to control an amount of power delivered to the lighting loads to an absolute level (e.g., to a maximum allowable amount), or by a relative amount (e.g., an increase of 10% from a current level). The control devices may be configured to control a color of the lighting load 102, 104 (e.g., by controlling a color temperature of the lighting loads or by applying full color control over the lighting loads).

[0059] The control devices may be configured to activate a preset associated with the lighting load 102, 104 (e.g., a preset may be associated with one or more predetermined settings of the lighting loads such as an intensity level of the lighting loads and/or a color of the lighting loads). The presets may be configured via the control device and/or via an external device (e.g., a mobile device) by way of a wireless communication circuit of the control device. The control devices may be configured to activate control of a zone. A zone may correspond to one or more electrical loads that are configured to be controlled by the control devices. A zone may be associated with a specific location (e.g., a living room) or multiple locations (e.g., an entire house with multiple rooms and hallways). The control devices may be configured to switch between different operational modes. An operational mode may be associated with controlling different types of electrical loads or different operational aspects of one or more electrical loads. Examples of operational modes may include a lighting control mode for controlling one or more lighting loads (e.g., which in turn may include a color control mode and an intensity control mode), an entertainment system control mode (e.g., for controlling music selection and/or the volume of an audio system), an HVAC system control mode, a winter treatment device control mode (e.g., for controlling one or more shades), and/or the like.

[0060] The control device described herein may be, for example, a dimmer switch 110, a retrofit remote control device 112, a wall-mounted control device 114, a tabletop remote control device 116, and/or a handheld remote control device 118, as shown in FIG. 1. The dimmer switch 110 may be configured to be mounted to a standard electrical wallbox (e.g., via a yoke) and be coupled in series electrical connection between an alternating-current (AC) power source 105 and a lighting load that is wired into the control path of the dimmer switch 110 (e.g., such as the lighting load 102). The dimmer switch 110 may receive an AC mains line voltage  $V_{ac}$  from the AC power source 105, and may generate a control signal for controlling the lighting load 102. The control signal may be generated via various phase-control techniques (e.g., a forward phase-control dimming technique or a reverse phase-control dimming technique). The dimmer switch 110 may be configured to receive wireless signals (e.g., from a remote control device) representative of commands to control the lighting load 102, and generate respective control signals for executing the com-

mands. Examples of wall-mounted dimmer switches are described in greater detail with reference to FIG. 13, and in commonly-assigned U.S. Pat. No. 7,242,150, issued Jul. 10, 2007, entitled DIMMER HAVING A POWER SUPPLY MONITORING CIRCUIT; U.S. Pat. No. 7,546,473, issued Jun. 9, 2009, entitled DIMMER HAVING A MICROPROCESSOR CONTROLLED POWER SUPPLY; and U.S. Pat. No. 8,664,881, issued Mar. 4, 2014, entitled TWO-WIRE DIMMER SWITCH FOR LOW-POWER LOADS, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0061] The retrofit remote control device 112 may be configured to be mounted to a mechanical switch (e.g., a toggle switch 122) that may be pre-existing in the lighting control system 100. Such a retrofit solution may provide energy savings and/or advanced control features, for example without requiring significant electrical re-wiring and/or without requiring the replacement of existing mechanical switches. As an example, a consumer may replace an existing lamp with the controllable lighting load 104, switch a toggle switch 122 that is coupled to the lighting load 104 to the on position, install (e.g., mount) the remote control device 112 onto the toggle switch 122, and associate the remote control device 112 with the lighting source 104. The retrofit remoted control 112 may then be used to perform advanced functions that the toggle switch 122 may be incapable of performing (e.g., such as dimming the intensity level of the light output, changing the color of the light output, providing feedback to a user, etc.). As shown, the toggle switch 122 is coupled (e.g., via a series electrical connection) between the AC power source 105 and an electrical receptacle 120 into which the lighting load 104 may be plugged (e.g., as shown in FIG. 1). Alternative, the toggle switch 122 may be coupled between the AC power source 105 and one or more of the lighting loads 102, 104, without the electrical receptacle 120.

[0062] The wall-mounted remote control device 114 may be configured to be mounted to a standard electrical wallbox and be electrically connected to the AC power source 105 for receiving power. The wall-mounted remote control device 114 may be configured to receive a user input and may generate and transmit a control signal (e.g., control data such as a digital message) for controlling the lighting loads 102, 104 in response to the user input. The tabletop remote control device 116 may be configured to be placed on a surface (e.g., an end table or night stand), and may be powered by a direct-current (DC) power source (e.g., a battery or an external DC power supply plugged into an electrical outlet). The tabletop remote control device 116 may be configured to receive a user input, and may generate and transmit a signal (e.g., a digital message) for controlling the lighting loads 102, 104 in response to the user input. The handheld remote control device 118 may be sized to fit into a user's hand, and may be powered by a direct-current (DC) power source (e.g., a battery or an external DC power supply plugged into an electrical outlet). The handheld remote control device 118 may be configured to receive a user input, and may generate and transmit a signal (e.g., a digital message) for controlling the lighting loads 102, 104 in response to the user input. Examples of battery-powered remote controls are described in greater detail in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 8,330,638, issued Dec. 11, 2012, entitled "Wireless Battery Powered Remote Control Having Multiple Mounting Means," and U.S. Pat. No. 7,573,208,

issued Aug. 11, 2009, entitled "Method Of Programming A Lighting Preset From A Radio-Frequency Remote Control," the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0063] The control devices described herein (e.g., the dimmer switch 110 and/or remote control devices 112-118) may each include a user input unit. The user input unit may be configured to receive (e.g., detect) user inputs for controlling one or more of the lighting loads 102, 104, and/or the control device itself. A plurality of mechanisms for receiving the user inputs may be implemented on the user input unit, including, for example, a rotating mechanism (e.g., such as a rotary knob or a dial), a button or switch or an imitation thereof, and a touch sensitive device (e.g., such as a capacitive touch surface) configured to detect both point actuations and gestures.

[0064] A point actuation, as described herein, may be characterized by a contact applied at a specific location of a detection surface (e.g., a touch sensitive surface). Examples of point actuations may include a "tap" or "poke" (e.g., a quick touch and release applied at a single point of detection), a "press and hold" (e.g., a finger press applied at a single point of detection for a period of time), and a "double tap" (e.g., two taps applied in quick succession at a single point of detection). A user input device (e.g., which may include a touch sensitive surface and/or a touch sensitive circuit as described herein) may be configured to detect a point actuation and generate an output signal indicating the detection. Such a user input device may be further configured to interpret other types of user inputs as multiple, continuous point actuations. For example, the user input device may be configured to detect a finger sliding or dragging across a touch sensitive surface and interpret such a "slide" or "drag" as multiple, continuous point actuations. The user input device may generate multiple output signals in response to the "slide" or "drag" (e.g., one output signal corresponding to each of the point actuations).

[0065] A gesture, as described here, may be distinguishable from a point actuation in at least a spatial and/or timing aspect. A gesture may represent a motion associated with specific timing characteristics. A user input device sensitive to gestures may be configured to detect a gesture, interpret the gesture as a single action, and generate an output signal indicating the detection and/or action. Gestures may be contact based (e.g., effectuated via one or more physical contacts with a detection surface), or non-contact based (e.g., effectuated without direct physical contact with a detection surface).

[0066] Contact based gestures, as described herein, may include a "swipe," a "smack," a multi-finger "pinch," a multi-finger "spread" or "open," and/or the like. A "smack" may be characterized by contacts applied at multiple locations of a detection surface within a predetermined time window (e.g., a narrow time window for detecting simultaneity of the contacts). Contacts with multiple locations may indicate that multiple fingers, palm of a hand, and/or the like, are involved, and a narrow time window may indicate that the contacts are brief and simultaneous to indicate a smacking motion. A "swipe" may be characterized by consecutive contacts with multiple locations within a brief time period. Consecutive contacts with multiple locations may indicate a movement (e.g., by one or more fingers) over the detection surface, and the brevity of time may indicate that the movement was performed with quickness to indicate a

swiping motion. A multi-finger “pinch” may be characterized by multiple fingers (e.g., two fingers) moving together, and a multi-finger “spread” or “open” may be characterized by multiple fingers (e.g., two fingers) moving apart. It should be noted that the terms used to describe the above gestures may be varied and should not limit the scope of the disclosure. Gestures may be user-programmable, reprogrammable, and custom gestures. For example, a user may pre-program a control device (e.g., via a mobile app) to recognize additional gestures such as a “rotate,” a “zig-zag,” and/or a “circling” motion as commands to control a certain operational aspect of an electrical load.

**[0067]** Non-contact based gestures, as described herein, may include various hand, arm, or body movements in front of a detection surface. For example, the user input unit may be configured to detect, via a capacitive touch element, a finger hovering over a front surface of the control device and interpret such a motion as a command to change a state of the control device or an electrical load controlled by the control device. Such non-contact based gestures may be detected by a touch sensitive device (e.g., a capacitive based touch surface) even without physical contact with the surface, for example, as long as the gestures are within a limited distance from the touch sensitive device (e.g., within 2 cm).

**[0068]** The control devices described herein (e.g., the dimmer switch **110** and/or remote control devices **112-118**) may each include one or more visual indicators (e.g., a light bar) configured to be illuminated by one or more light sources (e.g., one or more LEDs). The one or more visual indicators may be provided on the user input unit or may be separate from the user input unit. The one or more visual indicators may be operable to provide feedback to a user of the control device. Such feedback may indicate, for example, a status of a lighting load (e.g., the lighting loads **102, 104**) controlled by the control device. The status may reflect, for example, whether the lighting load is on or off, a present intensity of the lighting load, a color of the lighting load, and so on. The feedback may indicate a status of the control device itself, for example, such as a present operational mode of the control device (e.g., an intensity control mode or a color control mode), a power status of the control device (e.g., remaining battery power), and so on. As an example, the control device may provide feedback via the visual indicators while the control device is being actuated and/or after the control device is actuated. The feedback may indicate to the user that the control device is transmitting control signals (e.g., RF signals) in response to the actuation. The control device may be configured to keep the visual indicators illuminated while the condition triggering the feedback continues to exist. The control device may be configured to illuminate the visual indicators for a few seconds (e.g., 1-2 seconds) and then turn off the visual indicators (e.g., to conserve battery life).

**[0069]** The one or more visual indicators may be illuminated in response to detection of a user within close proximity of the control device. Such detection may be based on, for example, a finger hovering near the front surface of the control device, as described above. To illustrate, the visual indicators may be dim (e.g., not illuminated) when the control device is in an idle state. As a user approaches the control device (e.g., as the user reaches for the control device with a finger or hand, but before the finger or hand actually touches the control device), the control device may detect the proximity of the user (e.g., the user’s finger or

hand), and may illuminate the visual indicators in response to the detection. As described above, the proximity of the user’s finger or hand to the control device may be detected, for example, via a capacitive touch element comprised in the control device. The exact distance between the user and the control device that may trigger the illumination of the visual indicator may vary, for example, depending on the properties of the capacitive touch element employed.

**[0070]** The one or more visual indicators may assist with a control function of the control device. For example, the one or more visual indicators may be illuminated to present virtual buttons on a touch sensitive surface of the control device. Each of the virtual buttons (e.g., illuminated touch sensitive areas) may be used, for example, to activate a preset associated with one or more electrical loads (e.g., the lighting loads **102, 104**). Each of the virtual buttons (e.g., illuminated touch sensitive areas) may be used, for example, to activate an operational mode associated with controlling one or more electrical loads (e.g., a mode for controlling the lighting loads **102, 104**, a mode for controlling one or more winter treatment devices, a mode for controlling a HVAC system, etc.). Each of the virtual buttons (e.g., illuminated touch sensitive areas) may be used, for example, to activate control of a specific electrical load or a zone including multiple electrical loads (e.g., a zone for one room, a zone for an entire house, etc.). Further, the one or more visual indicators (e.g., a light bar) may be illuminated to display a color gradient representative of a plurality of color settings for a lighting load. A user of the control device may actuate an area of the touch sensitive surface next to the color gradient to select a corresponding color for the lighting load.

**[0071]** The control devices described herein (e.g., the dimmer switch **110** and/or remote control devices **112-118**) may each include a control circuit. The control circuit may be configured to be responsive to a user input received via the user input unit. The control circuit may be configured to generate control data (e.g., a control signal) for controlling the lighting loads **102, 104** in response to the user input. The control data may include commands and/or other information for controlling the lighting loads **102, 104**. The control data may be included in a control signal transmitted to the lighting loads **102, 104** via a wireless communication circuit. The control circuit may be configured to illuminate the one or more visual indicators to provide feedback of the control being applied and/or its outcome.

**[0072]** The control device may be configured to operate in multiple operational modes, and the control circuit may be configured to switch the control device from one mode to another. For example, the control circuit may be configured to switch the control device between an intensity control mode for controlling an intensity of the lighting loads **102, 104** and a color control mode for controlling a color of the lighting loads **102, 104**. The control circuit may be configured to provide feedback (e.g., via the visual indicators described herein) about the operational mode of the control device.

**[0073]** The control devices described herein (e.g., the dimmer switch **110** and/or remote control devices **112-118**) may each include a wireless communication circuit for transmitting and/or receiving radio frequency (RF) signals **108**. The wireless communication circuit may be used to transmit a control signal that includes the control data (e.g., a digital message) generated by the control device to the lighting loads **102, 104** or to a central controller of the

lighting control system **100**, for example. As described herein, the control data may be generated in response to a user input (e.g., a gesture) to adjust one or more operational aspects of the lighting loads **102**, **104**. The control data may include a command and/or identification information (e.g., such as a unique identifier) associated with the control device and/or one or more of the lighting loads **102**, **104** (e.g., and/or other electrical loads of the load control system **100**).

**[0074]** The control devices (e.g., the remote control devices **112-118**) may be associated with one or more lighting loads and/or other control devices (e.g., the dimmer switch **110**) for controlling the lighting loads (e.g., through a configuration procedure). Upon such association, the lighting loads **102**, **104** may be responsive to control signals transmitted by the control devices. To illustrate, the association may be accomplished by actuating an actuator on the concerned lighting loads and/or control devices, and then actuating (e.g., pressing and holding) an actuator on the control device for a predetermined amount of time (e.g., approximately 10 seconds). Examples of a configuration procedure for associating a control device with an electrical load is described in greater detail in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Publication No. 2008/0111491, published May 15, 2008, entitled "Radio-Frequency Lighting Control System," the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference. The wireless communication circuit may also be controlled to transmit/receive feedback information regarding the control device and/or the lighting loads **102**, **104** via RF signals.

**[0075]** The control device described herein (e.g., the dimmer switch **110** and/or remote control devices **112-118**) may include a memory (not shown). The memory may be used, for example, to store operational settings associated with the control device and/or the lighting loads **102**, **104** (e.g., such as lighting presets and their associated light intensities and/or colors). The memory may be implemented as an external integrated circuit (IC) or as an internal circuit (e.g., as part of a control circuit).

**[0076]** Greater detail about the control devices (e.g., the dimmer switch **110** and/or remote control devices **112-118**) will be provided herein with reference to FIGS. 2-13 and examples of a retrofit remote control device (e.g., such as the retrofit remote control device **112** of FIG. 1). It should be appreciated, however, that although examples are described with reference to a retrofit remote control device, the examples (e.g., those related to gesture-based user interfaces) are applicable to other types of control devices, including wall-mounted dimmer switches (e.g., such as the dimmer switch **110**), wall-mounted remote control devices (e.g., such as the wall-mounted remote control **114**), tabletop remote control devices (e.g., such as the tabletop remote control **116**), handheld remote control devices (e.g., such as the handheld remote control **118**), and/or the like.

**[0077]** Further, it should be appreciated that, although a lighting control system with two lighting loads is provided as an example above, a load control system as described herein may include more or fewer lighting loads, other types of lighting loads, and/or other types of electrical loads that may be configured to be controlled by the one or more control devices. For example, the load control system may include one or more of: a dimming ballast for driving a gas-discharge lamp; an LED driver for driving an LED light source; a dimming circuit for controlling the intensity of a

lighting load; a screw-in luminaire including a dimmer circuit and an incandescent or halogen lamp; a screw-in luminaire including a ballast and a compact fluorescent lamp; a screw-in luminaire including an LED driver and an LED light source; an electronic switch, controllable circuit breaker, or other switching device for turning an appliance on and off; a plug-in control device, controllable electrical receptacle, or controllable power strip for controlling one or more plug-in loads; a motor control unit for controlling a motor load, such as a ceiling fan or an exhaust fan; a drive unit for controlling a motorized window treatment or a projection screen; one or more motorized interior and/or exterior shutters; a thermostat for a heating and/or cooling system; a temperature control device for controlling a set-point temperature of a heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system; an air conditioner; a compressor; an electric baseboard heater controller; a controllable damper; a variable air volume controller; a fresh air intake controller; a ventilation controller; one or more hydraulic valves for use in radiators and radiant heating system; a humidity control unit; a humidifier; a dehumidifier; a water heater; a boiler controller; a pool pump; a refrigerator; a freezer; a television and/or computer monitor; a video camera; an audio system or amplifier; an elevator; a power supply; a generator; an electric charger, such as an electric vehicle charger; an alternative energy controller; and/or the like.

**[0078]** FIG. 2 depicts an example control device **200** that may be deployed as the dimmer switch **110** and/or the retrofit remote control device **112** in the lighting control system **100**. The control device **200** may comprise a user interface **202** and a faceplate **204**. The user interface **202** may include a touch sensitive surface **206** (e.g., a capacitive touch surface) that is configured to receive (e.g., detect) inputs, such as gestures, from a user of the control device **200**. The user interface **202** may also include a light bar **208** configured to be illuminated by one or more light sources (e.g., one or more LEDs) to visibly display information.

**[0079]** FIGS. 3A-3C depict an example remote control device **220** that may be deployed as the retrofit remote control device **112** in a the lighting control system **100** and/or the control device **200** shown in FIG. 2. The lighting control system **100** may include a mechanical switch **270** that may be in place prior to installation of the remote control device **220** (e.g., the mechanical switch **270** may be pre-existing in the lighting control system). As shown, the mechanical switch **270** may be a standard decorator paddle switch. The lighting control system **100** may further include one or more lighting loads, such as the lighting loads **102**, **104**. The mechanical switch **270** may be coupled in series electrical connection between an AC power source (e.g., the AC power source **105** of FIG. 1) and the one or more lighting loads. The mechanical switch **270** may include an actuator **272** that may be actuated to turn on and/or turn off, the one or more lighting loads. The mechanical switch **270** may include a yoke **274** that enables mounting of the mechanical switch **270** to a structure. For example, the yoke **274** may be fastened to a single-gang wallbox that is installed in an opening of a wall.

**[0080]** As shown, the example remote control device **220** may include an adapter **210**, a control unit **230**, and a faceplate **260**. Prior to installation of the remote control device **100**, a pre-existing faceplate (not shown) may be removed from the mechanical switch **270**, for instance by removing faceplate screws (not shown) from corresponding

faceplate screw holes 276 in the yoke 274. The adapter 210 may be made of any suitable material, such as plastic. The adapter 210 may be configured to be attached to the yoke 274 of the mechanical switch 270. For example, the adapter 210 may be secured to the yoke 274 using fasteners, such as screws 211 that are installed into the faceplate screw holes 276 in the yoke 274. As shown, the adapter 210 may define an opening 212 that extends therethrough. The opening 212 may be configured to receive a portion of the mechanical switch 270 that may include, for example, the actuator 272 and a frame 273 that surrounds a perimeter of the actuator 272. The adapter 210 may define a rear surface 214 that is configured to abut a surface of a structure to which the mechanical switch 270 is installed, such as a wallboard surface that surrounds a wallbox in which the mechanical switch 270 is installed.

[0081] The adapter 210 may be configured to enable removable attachment of the control unit 230 to the adapter 210. For example, the adapter 210 may define one or more attachment members that are configured to engage with complementary features of the control unit 230. As shown, the adapter 210 may define one or more resilient snap fit connectors 216 that are configured to engage with complementary features of the control unit 230. The adapter 210 may be configured to enable removable attachment of the faceplate 260 to the adapter 210. For example, the adapter 210 may define one or more attachment members that are configured to engage with complementary features of the faceplate 260. As shown, the adapter 210 may define one or more resilient snap fit connectors 218 that are configured to engage with complementary features of the faceplate 260.

[0082] The faceplate may define a front surface 261 and an opposed rear surface 263. The front surface 261 may alternatively be referred to as an outer surface of the faceplate 260, and the rear surface 263 may alternatively be referred to as an inner surface of the faceplate 260. The faceplate 260 may define an opening 262 therethrough that is configured to receive a portion of the control unit 230, such that the control unit 230 protrudes from the faceplate 260 when the remote control device 220 is in an assembled configuration. As shown, the faceplate 260 may define recessed ledges 264 that are configured to engage with corresponding ones of the snap fit connectors 218 of the adapter 210, to releasably attach the faceplate 260 to the adapter 210. The faceplate 260 may be made of any suitable material, such as plastic.

[0083] As shown in FIGS. 3B and 3C, the control unit 230 may include a cover 232, an insert 234 that is configured to be received in the cover 232, and a flexible circuit board 236 that may be configured to be wrapped around a portion of the insert 234. The cover 232 and the insert 234 may be made of any suitable material, such as plastic. The illustrated control unit 230 is rectangular in shape and is elongate between a first end 231 and an opposed second end 233. It should be appreciated that the control unit 230 is not limited to the illustrated rectangular geometry, and that control unit may alternatively be configured with other suitable geometries. In accordance with the illustrated orientation of the control unit 230, the first end 231 may be referred to as an upper end of the control unit 230 and the second end 233 may be referred to as a lower end of the control unit 230. The first and second ends 231, 233 of the control unit 230 may also be referred to as first and second ends of the cover 232, respectively. The cover 232 may define a void 238 that is configured to receive the insert 234 with the flexible circuit

board 236 wrapped around the insert 234 in an attached position. The cover 232 may define an inner surface 242 and an opposed outer surface 244. The outer surface 244 of the cover 232 may alternatively be referred to as a front surface of the cover 232, and more generally as an outer surface of the control unit 230.

[0084] The control unit 230 may include a touch sensitive device (e.g., a capacitive touch device) that is configured to receive (e.g., detect) inputs, such as gestures, from a user of the remote control device 220. For example, the flexible circuit board 236 may include one or more capacitive touch elements on a capacitive touch circuit 240 of the flexible circuit board 236. As shown, the capacitive touch circuit 240 faces the inner surface 242 of the cover 232 (e.g., behind the outer surface 244 of the control unit 230) when the flexible circuit board 236 is wrapped around the insert 234 and disposed in the void 238. The one or more capacitive touch elements on the capacitive touch circuit 240 may form multiple (e.g., two) capacitive touch channels or zones 240a, 240b that may be located on both sides of a central vertical axis of the capacitive touch circuit 240. The capacitive touch circuit 240 may be configured to detect touches (e.g., gestures applied on the outer surface 244) along an x axis, a y axis, or both an x and y axis. The capacitive touch circuit 240 may be further configured to detect gestures that are effectuated without any physical contact with the outer surface 244. For example, the capacitive touch circuit 240 may be capable of detecting a hovering finger in the proximity of the outer surface 244 based on changes occurred in the electromagnetic field near the capacitive touch circuit 240. Since the capacitive touch circuit 240 resides behind the outer surface 244 and is capable of detect user inputs applied via the outer surface 244, the outer surface 244 may also be regarded herein as a touch sensitive surface.

[0085] The control unit 230 may further include a control circuit (not shown) and a wireless communication circuit (not shown). The control circuit and the wireless communication circuit may be mounted to the flexible circuit board 236, for example. The control circuit may be in electrical communication with the capacitive touch circuit 240, and the wireless communication circuit may be in electrical communication with the control circuit. The flexible circuit board 236 may be configured to wrap around the insert 234 such that the capacitive touch circuit 240 is spaced from the control circuit, the wireless communication circuit, and/or other “noisy” circuitry of the flexible circuit board 236 along a direction that extends perpendicular to the outer surface 244 of the cover 232. This arrangement may, for example, improve operational efficiency of the capacitive touch circuit 240.

[0086] The control unit 230 may be configured to provide visual indications about a status of an electrical load controlled by the remote control device 220 or a status of the remote control device 220 itself. Alternatively or additionally, the control unit 230 may be configured to provide visual indications related to a control function of the remote control device 220 (e.g., such as preset selection or color control). The visual indications may be provided in response to receiving user inputs (e.g., such as gestures) via the capacitive touch circuit 240, for example.

[0087] The remote control device 220 may include a plurality of light sources 246 (e.g., LEDs) that are configured to provide the visual indications described herein. The plurality of light sources 246 may be arranged in a linear

array that extends between the upper and lower ends 231, 233 of the control unit 230, and may be attached to the flexible circuit board 236 approximate to an outer edge thereof. The cover 232 may define an opening that allows light from one or more of the light sources 246 to be emitted outward from an interior of the cover 232. For example, as shown, the cover 232 defines a narrow slot 248 that extends between the upper and lower ends 231, 233 of the cover 232. The cover 232 may include a light bar 249 that is disposed in the slot 248. The capacitive touch circuit 240 may define a gap 241, for example approximately midway between opposed sides of the flexible circuit board 236 or near a side thereof. The control unit may further include a light guide 250 that may be configured to diffuse light emitted from the light sources 246 through the gap 241 at respective locations along the slot 248. The light guide 250 may comprise light guide film, for example. It should be appreciated that the scope of the disclosure is not limited to the illustrated array of light sources 246 and/or the illustrated geometry of the slot 248.

[0088] The control unit 230 may be configured to translate a user input, such as a point actuation (e.g., a “tap”) or a gesture (e.g., such as a “swipe,” a “smack,” a two-finger “pinch,” a two-finger “open,” etc.), into control data (e.g., a control signal) for controlling one or more electrical loads (e.g., the lighting loads 102, 104 of FIG. 1) controlled by the remote control device 220. For example, the control circuit may be configured to receive signals (e.g., from the capacitive touch circuit 240) that correspond to user inputs applied via the capacitive touch circuit 240, interpret the received signals into various control commands, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause the commands to be executed. For example, the control circuit may be configured to, in response to a point actuation, generate first control data (e.g., a first control signal) for changing a first characteristic of an electrical load, and in response to a gesture, generate second control data (e.g., a second control signal) for changing a second characteristic of the electrical load.

[0089] It should be appreciated that the control unit 230 described herein is not limited to interpreting signals associated with the above-described example gestures, and that the control unit 230 may be configured to interpret signals associated with more, fewer, or different gestures as desired. Gestures may be user-programmable, reprogrammable, and custom gestures. Further, as shown, the capacitive touch circuit 240 defines linear columns (e.g., one-dimensional columns) that may provide a Y-axis output. However, it should further be appreciated that the capacitive touch circuit 240 is not limited to the illustrated configuration. For example, the capacitive touch circuit 240 may define, for example, one or more linear columns that may provide respective Y-axis outputs, one or more linear rows that provide respective X-axis outputs, or any combination thereof. The capacitive touch circuit 240 may include, for example, a two-dimensional touch element having both X-axis and Y-axis outputs. Such implementations may enable the remote control device 200 to control multiple electrical loads from the control unit 230. For example, gestures applied to a first capacitive touch column may cause commands to be issued to a first lighting load associated with the first capacitive touch column, gestures applied to a second capacitive touch column may cause commands to be issued to a second lighting load associated with the second capacitive touch column, and gestures

applied simultaneously to both the first and second capacitive touch columns may cause a command to be issued to both the first and second lighting loads.

[0090] FIGS. 4A-4H depicts an example control device 280 that may be deployed as the dimmer switch 110 and/or the retrofit remote control device 112 in the lighting control system 100, as the control device 200, and/or as the remote control device 220. FIGS. 4A and 4B depict examples of user inputs that may be recognized by the control device 280 and translated into respective control signals for adjusting an amount of power delivered to one or more electrical loads. The user inputs may be provided via a touch sensitive surface 282 (e.g., the outer surface 244 of the control unit 230), and may have different characteristics (e.g., in term of spatial and/or timing properties) so that they may be interpreted as commands to apply different types of control over the electrical loads. For example, in FIG. 4A, the user input may be characterized by a point actuation (e.g., a tap) applied to an area of the touch sensitive surface 282 adjacent to a light bar 284 (e.g., the light bar 249 of the control unit 230). The user input may be detected by a capacitive touch circuit (e.g., the capacitive touch circuit 240), and may cause a signal to be transmitted to a control circuit of the control device 280 to indicate the detection. The signal may be reflective of the characteristics of a “tap.” The control circuit may interpret the signal based on the characteristics reflected therein, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to control an electrical load controlled by the control device 280. For example, the control circuit may, in response to the user input depicted in FIG. 4A, generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to set an amount of power delivered to a plurality of electrical loads to an absolute level that is dependent upon the location of the user input. This way, as the user slides a finger along the light bar 284, the amount of power delivered to the electrical loads may be raised or lowered according to the position of the finger along the length of the light bar 284.

[0091] In an illustrative example of applying such absolute control, the control device 280 may control (e.g., may be associated with) first and second dimmable lighting loads (e.g., the lighting loads 102, 104 in FIG. 1) in a lighting control system. The control circuit may be configured to map multiple locations of the touch sensitive surface 282 along the light bar 284 to respective absolute intensity levels for the lighting loads. For example, if the control circuit receives a signal indicating that a “tap” (e.g., as depicted in FIG. 4A) is detected at a location corresponding to 25% intensity, the control circuit may generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to dim both the first and second lighting loads to 25% intensity. The control data may be transmitted to the lighting loads by a wireless communication circuit of the control device 280 via a control signal that includes the control data.

[0092] The control device 280 may also be configured to, in certain situations, rescale the adjustment amount that corresponds to a point actuation (e.g., a “tap”) along the light bar 284. For example, the control device 280 may be configured to apply such rescaling when the current intensity levels of the lighting loads are near the low-end (e.g., 5%). In those scenarios, the control device 280 (e.g., the control circuit of the control device) may rescale the adjustment amount so that a user may be able to apply a smaller amount of adjustment to the concerned intensity levels (e.g., fine-tuning) in response to a point actuation along the light bar

**284.** The control circuit may be configured to perform the rescaling in response to a user input (e.g., a gesture). For example, the user input may be a multi-finger “open” gesture applied to an area of the touch responsive surface adjacent to the light bar **284**. The control device **280** may rescale the adjustment amounts back to their original values (e.g., when the light intensities of the lighting loads are no longer near the low-end) in response to a multi-finger “pinch” gesture applied to an area of the touch responsive surface adjacent to the light bar **284**.

**[0093]** In FIG. **4B**, the user input may be characterized by contacts with the touch sensitive surface **282** by multiple fingers (e.g., two fingers) in an area of the touch sensitive surface **282** adjacent to the light bar **284**. In an example, such contacts may be a multi-finger slide applied by a user along the light bar **284**. The user may slide the multiple fingers simultaneously (e.g., substantially simultaneously) along both sides of the light bar **284** to actuate two capacitive touch channels of the capacitive touch circuit (e.g., the capacitive touch channels **240a**, **240b** of the capacitive touch circuit **240**). The control circuit may be configured to recognize such a user input as a command for applying relative control, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to adjust (e.g., gradually adjust) an amount of power delivered to a plurality of electrical loads by a relative adjustment amount (e.g., relative to a starting level), while allowing the lighting loads to maintain respective absolute power levels that are different from one another. For example, the control circuit may cause the power delivered to the electrical loads to be adjusted by a percentage based on how far the fingers slide up or down the touch sensitive surface **282**. The adjustment may be made gradually (e.g., at a predetermined rate) as the fingers are moved across the touch sensitive surface **282**.

**[0094]** In an illustrative example of relative control, the control device **280** may control first and second dimmable lighting loads (e.g., the lighting loads **102**, **104**) in a lighting control system. The first lighting load may be powered at approximately 30% intensity, and the second lighting load may be powered at approximately 50% intensity. If the control circuit receives a signal indicating that a multi-finger slide (e.g., as depicted in FIG. **4B**) is applied via the touch sensitive surface **282**, the control circuit may issue one or more commands (e.g., one or more control signals) to cause the first and second lighting loads to adjust their intensities by a same number of percentage points (e.g., 10 percentage points) based on how far the fingers are moved across the touch sensitive surface **282**, while maintaining the difference in the respective intensities of the two lighting loads. As such, the first lighting load may be controlled to 20% intensity, and the second lighting load may be controlled to 40% intensity. Additionally or alternatively, based on how far the fingers are moved across the touch sensitive surface **282**, the control circuit may be configured to issue one or more commands (e.g., one or more control signals) to cause the first and second lighting loads to adjust their intensity by a percentage of their respective present intensity levels. For example, the control circuit may instruct the first and second lighting loads to reduce their respective intensity levels by 10% of the present levels (e.g., as opposed to 10 percentage points). As such, the first lighting load may be controlled to 27% intensity (e.g., 10% down the previous level of 30%), and the second lighting load may be controlled to 45% intensity (e.g., 10% down the previous level of 50%).

**[0095]** The control device **280** may be configured to, in certain situations, rescale the relative adjustment amount that corresponds to a user input (e.g., a multi-finger slide). The control device **280** may be configured to apply such rescaling to accomplish fine-tune adjustments of the intensity of a lighting load. The control device **280** (e.g., the control circuit of the control device **280**) may rescale the relative adjustment amount as a function of the current intensity level of the lighting load and the distance between a starting location of the user input and an end of the touch sensitive surface **282**. For example, when raising the intensity levels of the lighting loads, the control circuit may rescale the relative adjustment amount so that a user may change the intensity level of the lighting load from a present intensity to a high-end intensity over the distance from an initial location of the user input (e.g., a starting point of the user input) and the top of the touch sensitive surface **282**. When lowering the intensity level of a lighting load, the control circuit may rescale the relative adjustment amount so that a user may change the intensity level from a present intensity to a low-end intensity over the distance from an initial location of the user input and the bottom of the touch sensitive surface **282**. To illustrate, if the current intensity of the lighting load is at 20%, the control circuit may rescale the relative adjustment amount so that a user may be able to dim the intensity down from 20% to a minimum intensity (e.g., to an off state) over the distance from a starting point of the user input to the bottom of the touch sensitive surface **282**. Similarly, if the current intensity of the lighting load is at 80%, the control circuit may rescale the relative adjustment amount so that a user may be able to raise the intensity from 80% to a maximum intensity over the distance from a starting point of the user input to the top of the touch sensitive surface **282**.

**[0096]** The control device **280** may be configured to perform the rescaling in response to a user input. Such a user input may be any of the point actuations or gestures described herein. For example, to fine-tune the intensity of a lighting load near the low-end, a user may press and hold a finger near the top of the touch sensitive surface **282**. In response to such press-and-hold, the control circuit may rescale the relative adjustment amount over the distance between the location of the press-and-hold and the bottom of the touch sensitive surface **282**. This way, as the user slides the finger across the touch sensitive surface **282**, the intensity of the lighting load may be adjusted down from the present level based on the location of the finger.

**[0097]** The control circuit may be configured to perform rescaling for one lighting load and for multiple lighting loads. In the case of multiple lighting loads, the control circuit may rescale the relative adjustment amount based on the intensity of one of the lighting loads. For example, when raising the intensities of the multiple lighting loads, the control circuit may rescale the relative adjustment amount based on the lighting load that has the highest intensity level. When lowering the intensities of the multiple lighting loads, the control circuit may rescale the relative adjustment amount based on the lighting load that has the lowest intensity level.

**[0098]** Rescaling may also be accomplished if the control circuit is configured to translate a user input (e.g., a multi-finger slide) into an adjustment amount that is a percentage of the respective current intensity levels of the multiple lighting loads (e.g., rather than absolute percentage points).

Using such an approach, a user may be able to utilize the distance between the top and bottom of the touch sensitive surface **282** near the light bar **284** to effectuate an adjustment that may range between 0-100% of the current intensity levels.

**[0099]** The control device **280** may be configured to provide a visual indication in response to detecting the user inputs depicted in FIGS. **4A** and **4B**. For example, the control circuit of the control device **280** may be configured to, upon receiving a signal that is indicative of a user command to set an amount of power delivered to an electrical load to an absolute level (e.g., as depicted in FIG. **4A**), indicate the level on the light bar **284**. For example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **249** to an intensity proportional to the absolute level (e.g., a higher intensity for a higher power level). Alternatively or additionally, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **284** along a length that extends from the bottom of the light bar to a position along the length of the light bar. The length of such an illumination (e.g., as defined by an amount of the light bar **284** that is illuminated) may correspond to and be indicative of the absolute level of power delivered to the electrical load. The illumination may fade away after a predetermined amount of time, or be maintained until the next adjustment.

**[0100]** In another example, the control circuit of the control device **280** may be configured to, upon receiving a signal from the capacitive touch circuit indicative of a user command to change an amount of power delivered to an electrical load by a relative amount (e.g., as depicted in FIG. **4B**), illuminate the light bar **284** in a particular manner to indicate that relative control is being applied. For instance, the control circuit may be configured to, in response to detecting a user input for relative control, illuminate the light bar **284** into a specific pattern (e.g., multiple segments of varying intensities or colors). The control circuit may be further configured to alter the illumination pattern (e.g., successively alter the intensities or colors of the multiple segments) for the duration of the user input, so that an animation (e.g., imitation of a moving scrollbar and/or ridges of a scroll wheel) may be displayed on the light bar **284** to indicate that the power delivered to the electrical loads is being gradually adjusted (e.g., by a predetermined amount at a time). The animation may move at a constant rate as the control is being applied or with varying speed dependent upon the user input (e.g., to match the position and/or speed of the user input). Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to illuminate the light bar **284** (e.g., in a manner similar to the indication of an absolute power level described above) to indicate an average of the power levels at a plurality of electrical loads.

**[0101]** FIGS. **4C** and **4D** depict examples of additional user inputs (e.g., such as gestures) that may be recognized by the control device **280** and translated into control data (e.g., a control signal) for controlling an electrical load. The user inputs may be applied via the touch sensitive surface **282** of the control device **280** with or without physically contacting the surface. As shown in FIG. **4C**, for example, the user input may be an upward “swipe” gesture, as described herein. The gesture may be detected by the capacitive touch circuit, which may cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit of the control device **280** to indicate the detection. For example, the signal may indicate to the control circuit that the user input has the characteristics of an

upward “swipe.” The control circuit may interpret the signal based on the characteristics reflected therein, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to control an electrical load controlled by the control device **280**.

**[0102]** Similarly, as shown in FIG. **4D**, the user input may be a downward “swipe” gesture. The gesture be detected by the capacitive touch circuit, which may cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit of the control device **280**. The signal may indicate, for example, that the user input has the characteristics of a downward “swipe.” The control circuit may interpret the signal based on the characteristics reflected therein, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to control an electrical load controlled by the control device **280**.

**[0103]** Although FIGS. **4C** and **4D** depict upward and downward swipes, it should be appreciated that a swipe gesture can be applied in other directions and/or manners. For example, a swipe may be applied in a horizontal direction in either a left-to-right or right-to-left direction, or diagonally from one area of the touch sensitive surface **280** to another. The scope of the disclosure herein with respect to a “swipe” is not limited to any particular manner in which the swipe is applied.

**[0104]** The control circuit may be configured to interpret a user input corresponding to a “swipe” gesture as a command for an associated electrical load to enter a particular state. Such a particular state may be predetermined, and may correspond to, for example, an on/off state of the electrical load, a specific power level of the electrical load (e.g., a desired intensity level of a lighting load), a particular setting of the electrical load (e.g., a temperature setting of an HVAC system), and/or the like. For example, upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in an upward direction, the control circuit may be configured to generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause a lighting load to go to a full intensity dimming level (e.g., a high-end intensity). And upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in a downward direction, the control circuit may be configured to generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause a lighting load to go to a minimal dimming level (e.g., a low-end intensity, such as 1% or off).

**[0105]** The control circuit may be configured to interpret a signal corresponding to a “swipe” gesture as a command to switch the control device **280** into a specific operational mode. Such an operational mode may be, for example, an intensity control mode or a color control mode for a lighting load, a preset selection mode, an absolute or relative power control mode, and/or the like. For example, the control device **280** may be configured to, by default, operate in an intensity control mode. Upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in a right-to-left direction, the control circuit may be configured to switch the control device **280** from the intensity control mode to a color control mode.

**[0106]** The control device **280** may be configured to provide a visual indication in response to detecting the user inputs depicted in FIGS. **4C** and **4D**. For example, if the control circuit is configured to put an associated electrical load into a particular state in response to detecting a “swipe” gesture, the control circuit may be further configured to illuminate the light bar **284** to indicate the particular state. For instance, upon controlling a lighting load to go to a full intensity dimming level (e.g., a high-end intensity) or a minimal dimming level (e.g., a low-end intensity, such as



1% or off), the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **284** to indicate the respective dimming levels, as described above.

**[0107]** Relevant features described herein with reference to FIGS. **4C** and **4D** may be applicable to other types of user inputs. For example, the touch sensitive surface **282** may be configured to be responsive to a “tap” or “poke” applied at a specific location of the touch sensitive surface. Such a “tap” or “poke” may, for example, be characterized by a touch-and-release, as described herein. The control circuit may be configured to interpret such a user input as a command for an associated electrical load to go to a desired power level, such as a command for a lighting load to go to a desired dimming level. The desired power level may be dependent upon a location on the touch sensitive surface **280** at which the “tap” or “poke” is detected (e.g., such as a position along the light bar **284**). The control circuit may generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause the command to be executed.

**[0108]** The touch sensitive surface **282** may be configured to be responsive to a “smack” gesture. Such a “smack” gesture may, for example, be characterized by contacts with the touch sensitive surface **282** at multiple locations within a predetermined time window (e.g., indicative of multiple fingers contact the surface simultaneously, palm of a hand contacting the surface, etc.). The contacts may be determined to occur in a larger area of the touch sensitive surface **282** than that associated with a “tap” or “poke,” which may be effectuated by a single finger. The control circuit may be configured to interpret such a gesture as a command to toggle a state of an associated electrical load, for example from on to off or from off to on. In an example, the control circuit may be configured to, upon toggling an associated electrical load on in response to a “smack” gesture, put the associated electrical load into a last-known state (e.g., a state before the associated electrical load was turned off). Alternatively or additionally, the control circuit may be configured to interpret a “smack” gesture as a command for an associated electrical load to enter a predetermined state, including, for example, a particular power state of the electrical load (e.g., a desired intensity level of a lighting load), a particular setting of the electrical load (e.g., a temperature setting of an HVAC system), and/or the like.

**[0109]** The control device **280** may be used to control the color of light emitted by a lighting load. To facilitate a color control operation, the control device **280** may be configured to provide one or more visual indications on a front surface of the control device to assist with the color control operation. Such visual indications may be provided, for example, on the touch sensitive surface **282** of the control device **280**. The visual indications may include a color gradient and/or one or more backlit virtual buttons that may be used to adjust a color setting of the lighting load.

**[0110]** FIG. **4E** depicts an example of a color gradient that may be provided on the control device **280** to facilitate a color control operation. A color gradient, as described herein, may refer to any visual representation of a set of colors arranged in accordance to an order. The number of colors and the order in which those colors are arranged may vary from one implementation to the next, and should not limit the scope of this disclosure. Further, in the example shown in FIG. **4E**, a color gradient is provided on the light bar **284** that extends through the touch sensitive surface **282** of the control device **280**. It should be appreciated, however,

that the presentation of such a color gradient is not limited to any particular location, and does not need to be in a bar shape. Further, it should be noted that the color gradient may be applied to the colors associated with the color temperatures of a black body radiator.

**[0111]** The control device **280** (e.g., a control circuit of the control device **280**) may be configured to present the color gradient in response to a user input. The user input may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface **280** of the control device **280** (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). The control circuit may be configured to be responsive to such gestures and illuminate the light bar **284** to present the color gradient in response. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device **280**. For example, the capacitive touch circuit of the control device **280** may be configured to detect a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface **282**, and transmit a signal to the control circuit indicating such detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device **280**). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, illuminate the light bar **284** to present the color gradient.

**[0112]** The control circuit may be configured to present the color gradient in different ways. In an example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **284** with different colors each centering in a portion of the light bar **284** and gradually transitioning into the color of a neighboring portion. The different colors may be arranged in an order reflective of the respective red/green/blue (RGB) values of the colors, for example. Each of the colors displayed on the light bar **284** (e.g., the location of the corresponding color) may correspond to a desired color for one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **280**. The relationship between desired light colors for the lighting loads and positions along the color gradient (e.g., the respective locations of the colors on the light bar **284**) may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device **280**.

**[0113]** To select a color for the one or more lighting loads, a user of the control device **280** may manipulate an area of the touch sensitive surface **282** adjacent to one of the colors displayed on the light bar **284** to cause an actuation of the capacitive touch circuit. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The capacitive touch circuit may be configured to detect the actuation, and transmit a signal to the control circuit indicating the actuation (e.g., indicating the location of the actuation). Upon receiving the signal, the control circuit may determine a color corresponding to the location of the actuation, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to set a color of the one or more lighting loads to the determined color. For instance, the control circuit may be capable of identifying which color of the gradient displayed on the light bar **284** is adjacent to the location of actuation, and set the color of the lighting loads to the identified color. This way, as a user slides a finger along the light bar **284**, the color of the lighting loads may be adjusted accordingly based on the position of the finger along the length of the light bar **284**.

**[0114]** The control circuit may be configured to assign a color to multiple lighting loads (e.g., in a zone controlled by the control device **280**) in response to a single “tap” along the color gradient. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to assign a color for one lighting load in the zone of control in response to each “tap,” and assign the color to

additional lighting loads in the zone of control in response to additional “taps” by a user. Further, the control circuit may be configured to, in response to a first “tap” by a user, associate a first color to one or more lighting loads, and, in response to a second “tap” by a user, associate a second color to the one or more lighting loads. The control circuit may be further configured to cause the one or more lighting loads to dynamically switch between the first and second associated colors (e.g., at a predetermined rate or in accordance with an external condition).

[0115] A user may manipulate the touch sensitive surface **282** to change the color gradient displayed on the light bar **284**. For example, the control circuit may initially illuminate the light bar **284** into a first set of colors (e.g., to present a first color gradient on the light bar **284**). Each of the first set of colors may represent a section of the visible color spectrum that corresponds to a specific wavelength range. A user may manipulate an area of the touch sensitive surface **282** adjacent to one of the first set of colors to cause an actuation of the capacitive touch circuit. The actuation may be, for example, a two-finger “open” gesture (e.g., fingers moving apart) or a force (e.g., via a finger press) applied next to one of the first set of colors. The capacitive touch circuit may be configured to detect the actuation, and transmit a signal to the control circuit indicating the actuation. The control circuit may determine, based on the signal, a section of the color spectrum that corresponds to the location of the actuation, and control the one or more light sources to illuminate the light bar so that the first set of colors is replaced with a second set of colors (e.g., to present a second color gradient on the light bar **284**). The second set of colors may correspond to colors that are within the section of the color spectrum associated with the location of the actuation (e.g., the second color gradient may represent a smaller range of the first color gradient). A user may then set a color for one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **280** by actuating an area of the touch sensitive surface **282** next to one of the second set of colors, as described above.

[0116] While the second set of colors (e.g., the second color gradient) is displayed on the light bar **284**, the control circuit may be configured to change the display to revert to the first set of colors (e.g., the first color gradient) in response to a user input. For example, the control circuit may receive a signal indicating that of a two-finger “pinch” gesture (e.g., fingers moving together) or a force (e.g., applied via a finger press) is detected by the touch sensitive surface **282** in an area adjacent to the second color gradient. The control circuit may interpret such a signal as a command to switch the display on the light bar **284** back to the first color gradient, and may control the light bar **284** to effectuate the switch accordingly.

[0117] FIG. 4F depicts an example of another mechanism for adjusting a color (e.g., color temperature) of one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **280**. Although described with reference to color temperature control, it should be appreciated that the mechanism and user control described with reference to FIG. 4F may also be applied to full range color control. As shown, areas of the outer surface **244** may be backlit to display soft or virtual buttons **290a**, **290b**, and/or indicator lights **292**. The virtual buttons **290a**, **290b** and/or indicator lights **292** may be configured to be backlit by the light bar **284**. The control circuit may be configured to dim the backlighting (e.g., turn

off the backlighting or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device **280** is in a different operational mode or in an idle state so that a first user interface may be presented to a user of the control device **280**. The control circuit may then illuminate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons **290a**, **290b** and/or the indicator lights **292** in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event) so that a second user interface may be presented to the user. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to maintain the backlighting in an “on” state so that the virtual buttons are always shown on the control device **280**.

[0118] The user input that may trigger the display of the virtual buttons **290a**, **290b** and/or the indicator lights **292** may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface **282** of the control device **280** (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). As described herein, such a gesture may trigger to the control circuit to change the control device **280** into a color control mode. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device **280**. For example, the capacitive touch circuit of the control device **280** may be configured to be responsive to a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface **282**, and transmit a signal to the control circuit to indicate such detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device **280**). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons **290a**, **290b** and/or the indicator lights **292**.

[0119] The areas of the touch sensitive surface **282** that correspond to the virtual buttons **290a**, **290b** may be associated with adjusting (e.g., increasing and decreasing) the color temperature of one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **280**. For example, a user may make contact with the area of the touch sensitive surface **282** occupied by virtual button **290a** to cause an actuation of the capacitive touch circuit. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). In response to the actuation, a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit indicating that virtual button **290a** has been actuated. The control circuit may interpret the actuation as a command to increase the color temperature of the lighting loads, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the increase accordingly. The increase may be, for example, a gradual increase (e.g., by a predetermined amount at each step) while the actuation (e.g., a press-and-hold) lasts, or a one-time increase (e.g., by a predetermined amount) in response to the actuation (e.g., a “tap”).

[0120] Similarly, the capacitive touch circuit may be configured to detect that the area of the touch sensitive surface **282** occupied by the virtual buttons **290b** has been actuated. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The capacitive touch circuit may detect the actuation, and a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit indicating that the actuation has occurred. The control circuit may be configured to interpret the actuation as a command to decrease the color temperature of the lighting loads, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the decrease accordingly. The decrease may be, for example, a gradual decrease (e.g., by a predetermined amount at each step) while the actuation (e.g., a press-and-hold) lasts, or a one-time decrease (e.g., by a predetermined amount) in response to the actuation (e.g., a “tap”).

[0121] The control circuit of the control device 280 may be configured to illuminate the indicator lights 292 to provide feedback about color temperature adjustments in response to the virtual buttons 290a, 290b being actuated. For example, as the user actuates the virtual button 90a, the indicator lights 292 may be turn on one after another from bottom up to signal that the color temperature of the lighting load is being increased. As the user actuates the virtual button 290b, the indicator lights 292 may be turned off one after another from top to bottom to signal that the color temperature of the lighting load is being decreased.

[0122] The control circuit of the control device 280 may be further configured to illuminate the light bar 284 to indicate a current color temperature of the one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device 280. For example, the control circuit may illuminate a selected number of light sources to cause the light bar 284 to be illuminated to different intensities and/or lengths in proportion to a current color temperature of the one or more lighting loads. For instance, the light bar 284 may be illuminated to a higher intensity and/or a greater length in response to a higher color temperature.

[0123] The control device 280 may be used to activate a preset, zone, or an operational mode associated with one or more electrical loads. A preset may correspond to one or more predetermined settings of the one or more electrical loads. The electrical loads may be located at a specific location (e.g., a living room) or across multiple locations (e.g., different rooms of a house). For example, a preset may correspond to a preconfigured lighting scene (e.g., predetermined intensity/color settings of one or more lighting loads), a preconfigured combination of entertainment settings (e.g., music selection, volume of speakers, etc.), a preconfigured combination of environmental settings (e.g., temperature, humidity, shades, etc.), and/or any combination thereof. Such presets may be configured via the control device 280 and/or via an external device (e.g., a mobile device) by way of a wireless communication circuit of the control device 280. A zone may correspond to one or more electrical loads that are configured to be controlled by the control device 380. A zone may be associated with one specific location (e.g., a living room) or multiple locations (e.g., an entire house with multiple rooms and hallways). An operational mode of the control device 380 may be associated with controlling different types of electrical loads or different operational aspects of one or more electrical loads. Examples of operational modes may include a lighting control mode for controlling one or more lighting loads (e.g., controlling intensity and/or color of the lighting loads), an entertainment system control mode (e.g., controlling music selection and/or the volume of an audio system), an HVAC system control mode, a winter treatment device control mode (e.g., for controlling one or more shades), and/or the like. Once configured, the presets, zones, or operational modes may be stored by the control device 280 in memory.

[0124] FIG. 4G depicts an example of a user interface that may be provided on the touch sensitive surface 282 of the control device 280 to facilitate preset, zone, and/or operational mode selection. As shown, areas of the touch sensitive surface may be illuminated (e.g., backlit) to display soft or virtual buttons 294a, 294b, 294c. The illuminated areas may have different shapes, such as, for example, circles, squares, rectangles, etc. The illuminated areas may be backlit with different intensities or colors that represent the preset, zone,

or operational mode to be selected (e.g., an average intensity of an intensity preset or a dominant color of a color preset). The areas may be thinned out compared to the rest of the touch sensitive surface to allow backlighting to emit through the thinned-out areas. The areas may be associated with respective indicia (e.g., texts or graphics) that indicate the purposes of the virtual buttons 294a-294c. Backlighting may be provided, for example, by light sources (e.g., LEDs) of the control device 280. The control circuit may be configured to dim the backlighting (e.g., turn off the backlighting or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device 280 is in a different operational mode or in an idle state so that a first user interface may be presented to a user of the control device 280. The control circuit may illuminate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons 294a-294c in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event) so that a second user interface may be presented to the user. Alternatively, the control circuit of the control device 180 may be configured to maintain the backlighting in an “on” state so that the virtual buttons are always shown on the control device 280.

[0125] The user input that may trigger the display of the virtual buttons 294a-294c may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface 282 of the control device 280 (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). Such a gesture may be detected by the capacitive touch circuit, which may transmit a signal to the control circuit to indicate the detection. The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons 294a, 294b, 294c. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device 280. For example, the capacitive touch circuit of the control device 280 may be configured to be responsive to a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface 280, and transmit a signal to the control circuit to indicate such detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device 280). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons 294a, 294b, 294c.

[0126] The areas of the touch sensitive surface 282 that correspond to the virtual buttons 294a-294c may be designated for activating respective presets, zones, or operational modes associated with one or more electrical loads controlled by the control device 280. The association between the virtual buttons 294a-294c (e.g., locations of the virtual buttons 294a-294c) and the presets, zones, or operational modes may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device 280. To illustrate, a user of the control device 280 may make contact with the area of the touch sensitive surface 282 occupied by virtual button 294a to cause an actuation of the capacitive touch circuit. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). In response to the actuation, the capacitive touch circuit may transmit a signal to the control circuit indicating that virtual button 294a has been actuated. The control circuit may interpret the actuation as a command to activate a first preset (e.g., a first lighting scene), a first zone (e.g., which may include one or more electrical loads at a specific location such as a room or an entire house), or a first operational mode (e.g., a lighting control mode, a window treatment control mode, an HVAC control mode, etc.), and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the activation accordingly.

[0127] Similarly, the capacitive touch circuit may be configured to detect that the area of the touch sensitive surface **282** occupied by virtual button **294b** (or **294c**) has been actuated by, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). In response to the actuation, the capacitive touch circuit may transmit a signal to the control circuit indicating that virtual button **294b** (or **294c**) has been actuated. The control circuit may interpret the actuation as a command to activate a second preset (e.g., an entertainment scene), a second zone, or a second operational mode if the actuated button is virtual button **294b**, or to activate a third preset (e.g., a second lighting scene), a third zone, or a third operational mode if the actuated button is virtual button **294c**. The control circuit may generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate either activation accordingly.

[0128] The control circuit may be further configured to provide an indication about which preset, zone, or operational mode has been activated. For example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **284** in different manners (e.g., with varying intensity and/or color) corresponding to different presets, zones, or operational mode being activated. Alternatively or additionally, the control circuit may uniquely illuminate the virtual button associated with an activated preset, zone, or operational mode (e.g., to cause the virtual button to flash) to inform the user of the activated preset, zone, or operational mode.

[0129] A user may use a gesture to cycle through a plurality of presets, zones, or operational modes on the touch sensitive surface **282** of the control device **280**. For example, there may be more presets, zones, or operational modes configured in a load control system than what can be displayed on the touch sensitive surface **282** of the control device **280**. In those scenarios, a user may apply a gesture (e.g., a “swipe”) via the touch sensitive surface **282**, and the control circuit may be configured to, in response to the gesture, replace a first set of presets, zones, or operational modes that may be activated via the virtual buttons **294a-294c** with a second set. This way, the user may be able to cycle through all available presets, zones, or operational modes to choose one that meets the user’s needs. The control circuit may be further configured to change the indicia associated with the virtual buttons **294a-294c** to indicate currently associated presets, zones, or operational modes.

[0130] FIG. 4H depicts another example of a user interface that may be provided on the touch sensitive surface **282** of the control device **280** to facilitate preset, zone, and operational selections. As shown, the control circuit of the control device **280** may illuminate the light bar **284** to display discrete points **296** of illumination. For example, the discrete points **296** may correspond to different segments of the light bar **284** illuminated to different intensities and/or colors, or segments of the light bar **284** that may be illuminated to a same intensity and/or color but separated by segments of different intensities and/or colors. Each of the discrete points **296** (e.g., the location of each discrete point) may correspond to a preset associated with one or more electrical loads controlled by the control device **280**, a zone including one or more electrical loads, or an operational mode associated with controlling one or more electrical loads. The illumination of the discrete points **296** may be based on their respective associated presets, zones, or operational modes. For example, when a discrete point is associated with a preset that corresponds to a lighting scene, the corresponding discrete point on the light bar **284** may be illuminated to

display the dominant color of the lighting scene. Alternatively, the illumination of the corresponding discrete point on the light bar **284** may be periodically altered (e.g., at a predetermined rate) to display each light color of the lighting scene (e.g., to cycle through the colors of the lighting loads in the lighting scene). The relationship between the presets, zones, or operational modes and the discrete points **296** of the light bar **284** (e.g., the respective locations of the illuminated segments) may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device **280**. The control circuit of the control device **280** may be configured to keep the light bar **284** illuminated in the aforementioned manner. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to dim the light bar **284** (e.g., turn off the illumination or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device **280** is in a different operational mode or in an idle state, and illuminate the light bar **284** to reveal the multiple discrete points **296** in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event).

[0131] The user input that may trigger the display of the discrete points **296** on the light bar **284** may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface **282** of the control device **280** (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device **280**. For example, the capacitive touch circuit of the control device **280** may be configured to be responsive to a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface **282**, and transmit a signal to the control circuit to indicate such detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device **280**). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, illuminate the light bar **284** to display the multiple discrete points **296** for preset, zone, or operational mode selection.

[0132] To activate a specific preset, zone, or operational mode, a user may manipulate an area of the touch sensitive surface **282** adjacent to one of the multiple discrete points **296** of the light bar **284** to cause an actuation of the capacitive touch circuit. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The capacitive touch circuit may be configured to detect the actuation, and transmit a signal to the control circuit indicating the actuation. Upon receiving the signal, the control circuit may determine a location of the actuation, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate the preset, zone, or operational mode associated with the determined location (e.g., based on the stored relationship described above).

[0133] The control circuit may be further configured to provide an indication of which preset, zone, or operational mode has been activated. For example, once a user has activated a preset, zone, or operational mode, the control circuit may uniquely illuminate one of the discrete points **296** of the light bar **284** corresponding to the activated preset, zone, or operational mode (e.g., the discrete points **296**). The unique illumination may be realized, for example, by flashing the relevant discrete point or illuminating the discrete point with a higher intensity so that it is highlighted relative to the other discrete points.

[0134] In addition to or in lieu of the user interfaces described with reference to FIGS. 4G and 4H, the control device **280** may be configured to associate particular user gestures with presets, zones, or operational modes, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate a preset, zone, or operational mode in response to detecting an

associated gesture. The gestures may be applied via the capacitive touch circuit of the control device 280. The gestures may be applied by direct contact with the touch sensitive surface 282 of the control device 280 (e.g., a “swipe,” a “smack,” etc.), via proximity of anatomy to the touch sensitive surface 282 (e.g., by hovering a finger over the touch sensitive surface 282), or otherwise. The association of user gestures with presets, zones, or operational modes may be user-programmable and reprogrammable. The association may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device 280. The capacitive touch circuit may be configured to detect a gesture, and transmit a signal to a control circuit of the control device 280 indicating the detection of the gesture. The control circuit may, in response, identify a preset, zone, or operational mode associated with the gesture, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate the preset, zone, or operational mode.

[0135] Although described as separate mechanisms and user inputs in FIG. 4A-H, it should be appreciated that the control device 280 may incorporate any number and/or combinations of the mechanisms and user inputs described with reference to FIG. 4A-H.

[0136] FIG. 5 depicts another example control device 300 that may be deployed as the dimmer switch 110 and/or the retrofit remote control device 112 in the lighting control system 100. The lighting control system 100 may include one or more lighting loads, such as the lighting loads 102, 104. The control device 300 may comprise a user interface 302 and a faceplate 304. The user interface 302 may include a rotating portion 305 that is rotatable with respect to the faceplate 304 for adjusting the amount of power delivered to the lighting loads controlled by the control device. The user interface 302 may also include an actuation portion 306 that may be pressed in towards the faceplate 304 for turning the lighting loads on and off (e.g., toggling the lighting loads). More generally, the control device 300 may be responsive to a dynamic motion of the actuation portion 306 (e.g., an actuation that causes movement of the surface of the actuation portion). At least a portion of the surface of the actuation portion 306 may be a touch sensitive surface configured to receive (e.g., detect) point actuations and/or gestures. More generally, the control device 300 may be responsive to a static operation of the actuation portion 306 (e.g., an actuation that does not cause movement of the surface of the actuation portion). The user interface 302 may also include a light bar 308 configured to be illuminated by one or more light sources (e.g., one or more LEDs) to visibly display information.

[0137] FIGS. 6A and 6B are front and rear exploded perspective views of another example remote control device 310 that may be deployed as the retrofit remote control device 112 in the lighting control system 100 shown in FIG. 1 and/or the control device 300 shown in FIG. 5. The remote control device 310 may be configured to be mounted over an actuator of a standard light switch 312 (e.g., a toggle actuator of a single pole single throw (SPST) maintained mechanical switch). The remote control device 310 may be installed over of an existing faceplate 316 that is mounted to the light switch 312 (e.g., via faceplate screws 318). The remote control device 310 may include a base portion 320 and a control module 330 that may be operably coupled to the base portion 320. The control module 330 may be supported by the base portion 310 and may include a rotating

portion 332 (e.g., an annular rotating portion) that is rotatable with respect to the base portion 320.

[0138] As shown in FIG. 6A, the control module 330 may be detached from the base portion 320. The base portion 320 may be attached (e.g., fixedly attached) to a toggle actuator 314 and may be configured to maintain the toggle actuator 314 in the on position. The toggle actuator 314 may be received through a toggle actuator opening 322 in the base portion 320. A screw 324 may be tightened to attach (e.g., fixedly attached) the base portion 320 to the toggle actuator 314. In this regard, the base portion 320 may be configured to prevent a user from inadvertently switching the toggle actuator 314 to the off position when the remote control device 310 is attached to the light switch 312.

[0139] The control module 330 may be released from the base portion 320. For example, a control module release tab 326 may be provided on the base portion 320. By actuating the control module release tab 326 (e.g., pushing up towards the base portion or pulling down away from the base portion), a user may remove the control module 330 from the base portion 320.

[0140] The control module 330 may comprise one or more clips 338 that may be retained by respective locking members 328 connected to the control module release tab 326 when the base portion 320 is in a locked position. The one or more clips 338 may be released from the respective locking members 328 of the base portion 320 when the control module release tab 326 is actuated (e.g., pushed up towards the base portion or pulled down away from the base portion) to put the base portion 320 in an unlocked position. In an example, the locking members 328 may be spring biased into the locked position and may automatically return to the locked position after the control module release tab 326 is actuated and released. In an example, the locking members 328 may not be spring biased, in which case the control module release tab 326 may be actuated to return the base portion 320 to the locked position.

[0141] The control module 330 may be installed on the base portion 320 without adjusting the base portion 320 to the unlocked position. For example, the one or more clips 338 of the control module 330 may be configured to flex around the respective locking members 328 of the base portion and snap into place, such that the control module is fixedly attached to the base portion.

[0142] The control module 330 may be released from the base portion 320 to access one or more batteries 340 (e.g., as shown in FIG. 6B) that provides power to at least the remote control device 310. The batteries 340 may be held in place in various ways. For example, the batteries 340 may be held by a battery retention strap 342, which may also operate as an electrical contact for the batteries. The battery retention strap 342 may be loosened by untightening a battery retention screw 344 to allow the batteries 340 to be removed and replaced. Although FIG. 6B depicts the batteries 340 as being located in the control module 330, it should be appreciated that the batteries 340 may be placed elsewhere in the remote control device 310 (e.g., in the base portion 320) without affecting the functionality of the remote control device 310.

[0143] When the control module 330 is coupled to the base portion 320 as shown in FIG. 5, the rotating portion 332 may be rotatable in opposed directions about the base portion 320 (e.g., in the clockwise or counter-clockwise directions). The base portion 320 may be configured to be

mounted over the toggle actuator **314** of the switch **312** such that the rotational movement of the rotating portion **332** may not change the operational state of the toggle actuator **314** (e.g., the toggle actuator **314** may remain in the on position to maintain functionality of the remote control device **310**).

**[0144]** The control module **330** may comprise an actuation portion **334**. The actuation portion **334** may in turn comprise a part or an entirety of a front surface of the control module **330**. For example, the control module **330** may have a circular surface within an opening defined by the rotating portion **332**. The actuation portion **334** may comprise a part of the circular surface (e.g., a central area of the circular surface) or approximately the entire circular surface. In an example, the actuation portion **334** may be configured to move towards the light switch **312** to actuate a mechanical switch (not shown) inside the control module **330** as will be described in greater detail below. The actuation portion **334** may return to an idle position (e.g., as shown in FIG. 5) after being actuated. In an example, the front surface of the actuation portion **334** may be a touch sensitive surface (e.g., a capacitive touch surface). The actuation portion **334** may comprise a touch sensitive element (e.g., a capacitive touch element such as the touch sensitive circuit **240**) adjacent to the rear surface of the actuation portion. The touch sensitive element may be actuated in response to a touch of the touch sensitive surface of the actuation portion **334**.

**[0145]** The remote control device **310** may be configured to transmit one or more wireless communication signals (e.g., the RF signals **108** of FIG. 1) to an electrical load (e.g., the lighting loads **102**, **104** of the lighting control system **100** of FIG. 1). The remote control device **310** may include a wireless communication circuit (e.g., an RF transceiver or transmitter (not shown)) via which one or more wireless communication signals may be sent and/or received. The control module **330** may be configured to transmit digital messages (e.g., including commands to control the controllable electrical load) via the wireless communication signals. For example, the control module **330** may be configured to transmit a command to raise the intensity of a controllable lighting load in response to a clockwise rotation of the rotating portion **332** and to transmit a command to lower the intensity of the controllable light source in response to a counterclockwise rotation of the rotating portion **332**.

**[0146]** The control module **330** may be configured to transmit a command to toggle an electrical load (e.g., from off to on or vice versa) in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **334**. In addition, the control module **330** may be configured to transmit a command to turn an electrical load on in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **334** (e.g., if the control module **330** possesses information indicating that the electrical load is presently off). The control module **330** may be configured to transmit a command to turn an electrical load off in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **334** (e.g., if the control module possesses information indicating that the electrical load is presently on).

**[0147]** The control module **330** may be configured to transmit a command to turn an electrical load on to a maximum power level (e.g., to turn a light source on to full intensity) in response to a double tap of the actuation portion **334** (e.g., two actuations in quick succession). The control module **330** may be configured to adjust the power level of an electrical load to a minimum level (e.g., to turn the

intensity of a lighting load to a minimum intensity) in response to rotation of the rotating portion **332** and may only turn off the electrical load in response to an actuation of the actuation portion **334**. The control module **330** may also be configured in a spin-to-off mode, in which the control module **330** may turn off an electrical load after the power level of the electrical load (e.g., intensity of the lighting load) is controlled to a minimum level in response to a rotation of the rotating portion **332**.

**[0148]** The control module **330** may be configured to transmit a command (e.g., via one or more wireless communication signals such as the RF signal **108**) to adjust the color of a lighting load. Color control through the remote control device **310** will be described in greater detail below.

**[0149]** The control module **330** may comprise a light bar **336** that may be illuminated by one or light sources (e.g., LEDs), for example, to provide feedback to a user of the remoted control device **310**. The light bar **336** may be located in different areas of the remote control device **310** in different implementations. For example, the light bar **336** may be located between the rotating portion **332** and the actuation portion **334**. The light bar may have different shapes. For example, the light bar **336** may form a full circle (e.g., a substantially full circle) as shown in FIGS. 5 and 6A. The light bar **336** may be attached to a periphery of the actuation portion **334** and move with the actuation portion **334** (e.g., when the actuation portion is actuated). The light bar **336** may have a certain width (e.g., a same width along the entire length of the light bar). The exact value of the width may vary, for example, depending on the size of the remote control device **310** and/or the intensity of the light source(s) that illuminates the light bar **336**.

**[0150]** FIG. 6C is a front exploded view and FIG. 6D is a rear exploded view of the control module **330** of the remote control device **310**. The actuation portion **334** may be received within an opening defined by the rotating portion **332**. The light bar **336** may be attached to the actuation portion **334** around a periphery of the actuation portion. The rotating portion **332** may comprise an inner surface **416** having tabs **418** surrounding the circumference of the rotation portion. The tabs **418** may be separated by notches **420** that are configured to receive engagement members **422** of the actuation portion **334** to thus engage the actuation portion **334** with the rotating portion **332**. The control module **330** may also comprise a bushing **424** that is received within the rotating portion **332**, such that an upper surface **426** of the bushing may contact lower surfaces **428** of the tabs **418** inside of the rotating portion.

**[0151]** When the actuation portion **334** is received within the opening of the rotating portion **332**, the light bar **336** may be provided between the actuation portion **334** and the rotating portion **332**. When the rotating portion **334** is rotated, the actuation portion **334** and/or the light bar **336** may rotate with the rotating portion. The engagement members **422** of the actuation portion **334** may be able to move through the notches **420** in a z-direction (e.g., towards the base portion), such that the actuation portion **334** (along with the light bar **336**) may be able to move in the z-direction.

**[0152]** The control module **330** may further comprise a flexible printed circuit board (PCB) **430** that may be arranged over a carrier **432**. The flexible PCB **430** may comprise a main portion **434** on which most of the control circuitry of the control module **330** (e.g., including a control circuit) may be mounted. The control module **330** may

comprise a plurality of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) 436 arranged around the perimeter of the flexible PCB 430 to illuminating the light bar 336. The flexible PCB 430 may comprise a switch tab 438 that may be connected to the main portion 434 (e.g., via flexible arms 440). The switch tab 438 may have a mechanical tactile switch 442 mounted thereto. The switch tab 438 of the flexible PCB 430 may be configured to rest on a switch tab surface 444 on the carrier 432. The carrier 432 may comprise engagement members 446 configured to be received within notches 448 in the bushing 424. A ring 450 may snap to a lower surface 452 of the rotating portion to hold the control module 330 together. The clips 338 may be attached to the carrier 432 to allow the control module to be connected to the base portion.

[0153] When the actuation portion 334 is pressed, the actuation portion 334 may move along the z-direction until an inner surface 458 of the actuation member actuates the mechanical tactile switch 442. The actuation portion 334 may be returned to the idle position by the mechanical tactile switch 442. In addition, the control module 330 may comprise an additional return spring for returning the actuation portion 334 to the idle position. Actuations of the actuation portion 334 may not cause the actuation portion to move (e.g., the actuation portion 334 may substantially maintain its position along the z-direction). For example, the front surface of the actuation portion 334 may be a touch sensitive surface (e.g., a capacitive touch surface) configured to detect a user input via a point actuation and/or a gesture.

[0154] The batteries 340 may be adapted to be received within a battery recess 462 in the carrier 432 as shown in FIG. 6D. The batteries 340 may be held in place by the battery retention strap 342, which may also operate as a negative electrical contact for the batteries and tamper resistant fastener for the batteries. The flexible PCB may comprise a contact pad 466 that may operate as a positive electrical contact for the batteries 340. The battery retention strap 342 may comprise a leg 468 that ends in a foot 470 that may be electrically connected to a flexible pad 472 (e.g., as shown in FIG. 6C) on the flexible PCB 430. The battery retention strap 342 may be held in place by the battery retention screw 344 received in an opening 476 in the carrier 432. When the battery retention screw 344 is loosened and removed from the opening 476, the flexible pad 472 may be configured to move (e.g., bend or twist) to allow the battery retention strap 342 to move out of the way of the batteries 340 to allow the batteries to be removed and replaced.

[0155] The control module 330 may further comprise a magnetic strip 480 located on the inner surface 416 of the rotating portion 332 and extending around the circumference of the rotating portion. The flexible PCB 430 may comprise a rotational sensor pad 482 on which a rotational sensor (e.g., a Hall effect sensor integrated circuit 484) may be mounted. The rotational sensor pad 482 may be arranged perpendicular to the main portion 434 of the flexible PCB 430 as shown in FIG. 6D. The magnetic strip 480 may comprise a plurality of alternating positive and negative sections, and the Hall effect sensor integrated circuit 484 may comprise two sensor circuits operable to detect the passing of the positive and negative sections of the magnetic strip as the rotating portion 332 is rotated. Accordingly, the control circuit of the control module 330 may be configured to determine the rotational speed and direction of rotation of the rotation portion 332 in response to the Hall effect sensor integrated circuit 484. The flexible PCB 430 may also

comprise a programming tab 486 to allow for programming of the control circuit of the control module 330.

[0156] As shown in FIG. 6D, the carrier 432 may comprise an actuator opening 490 adapted to receive the toggle actuator of the light switch when the control module 330 is mounted to the base portion. The carrier 432 may comprise a flat portion 492 that may prevent the toggle actuator of the light switch from extending into the inner structure of the control module 330 (e.g., if the toggle actuator is particularly long). The flexible PCB 430 may also comprise an antenna 494 on an antenna tab 496 that may lay against the flat portion 492 in the actuator opening 490.

[0157] The control module 320 may be configured to translate a user input, such as a point actuation (e.g., a “tap”) or a gesture (e.g., such as a “swipe,” a “smack,” a two-finger “pinch,” a two-finger “open,” etc.), into control data (e.g., a control signal) for controlling one or more electrical loads (e.g., the lighting loads 102, 104 of FIG. 1) controlled by the remote control device 300. For example, the control circuit of the control module 320 may be configured to receive signals that correspond to user inputs applied via the touch sensitive surface, interpret the received signals into various control commands, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause the commands to be executed. For example, the control circuit may be configured to, in response to a point actuation, generate first control data for changing a first characteristic of an electrical load, and in response to a gesture, generate second control data for changing a second characteristic of the electrical load.

[0158] It should be appreciated that the control circuit of control module 320 is not limited to interpreting signals associated with the above-described example gestures, and that the control circuit may be configured to interpret signals associated with more, fewer, or different gestures as desired. Gestures may be user-programmable, reprogrammable, and custom gestures. Further, the touch sensitive surface (e.g., a touch sensitive device residing behind the touch sensitive surface) of the remote control device 300 may define one or more linear columns (e.g., one-dimensional columns) that may provide a Y-axis output, one or more linear rows that provide respective X-axis outputs, or any combination thereof. The touch sensitive surface (e.g., a touch sensitive device residing behind the touch sensitive surface) may include, for example, a two-dimensional touch element having both X-axis and Y-axis outputs. Such implementations may enable the remote control device 300 to control multiple electrical loads from the control module 320. For example, gestures applied to a first capacitive touch column may cause commands to be issued to a first lighting load associated with the first capacitive touch column, gestures applied to a second capacitive touch column may cause commands to be issued to a second lighting load associated with the second capacitive touch column, and gestures applied simultaneously to both the first and second capacitive touch columns may cause a command to be issued to both the first and second lighting loads.

[0159] FIGS. 7A-7H depicts an example control device 380 that may be deployed as the dimmer switch 110 and/or the retrofit remote control device 112 in the lighting control system 100, the control device 300, and/or the control device 310. The control device 380 may be configured to detect various types of user inputs (e.g., point actuations and/or gestures), and translate those user inputs into control data to control an electrical load controlled by the control device

**380.** FIGS. 7A and 7B depict examples of user inputs that may be recognized by the control device **380** and translated into control data for adjusting an amount of power delivered to an electrical load. The user inputs may be provided via a touch sensitive surface **382** (e.g., a capacitive touch surface) of an actuator portion **384** (e.g., the actuation portion **324**), and may have different characteristics (e.g., in term of spatial and/or timing properties) so that they may be interpreted as commands to apply different types of control over the electrical loads. For example, the user input shown in FIG. 7A is characterized by a rotational movement of a rotating portion **386** (e.g., the rotating portion **322**), and may be interpreted by the control device **380** (e.g., a control circuit of the control module **380**) as a command to set an amount of power delivered to the electrical loads to an absolute level. The control circuit may determine the absolute level based on the degree of rotation, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) accordingly to effectuate the control (e.g., by causing a wireless communication circuit of the control device **380** to transmitted a control signal including the control data to the electrical loads). The control circuit may rescale the adjustment amount that corresponds to a user input when the power level is near a low-end. The example rescaling techniques described in association with FIG. 4A may be equally applicable here.

**[0160]** The user input in FIG. 7B, on the other hand, may have different characteristics than those depicted in FIG. 7A, and may be interpreted as a different command for adjusting the amount of power delivered to the plurality of electrical loads. For example, the user input may be characterized by pushing in the rotating portion **386** (towards the faceplate **316** and/or the base portion **320**) and rotating it at the same time. The control circuit may recognize such a user input as a command for relative control, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the control accordingly. For example, the control circuit may cause the power delivered to the electrical loads to be adjusted (e.g., gradually adjusted) by a relative adjustment amount (e.g., relative to a starting level), while allowing the electrical loads to maintain respective absolute power levels that are different from one another. For example, the control circuit may cause the power delivered to the electrical loads to be adjusted by a percentage based on the amount of rotational movement of the rotating portion **386**. The adjustment may be made gradually (e.g., at a predetermined rate) as the rotational portion **386** is being rotated. An illustrative example of relative control and example techniques for rescaling an adjustment amount have been provided in association with FIG. 4B (e.g., with reference to two lighting loads), and is equally applicable here.

**[0161]** User inputs for relative control are not limited to the example described above. For instance, a user may first manipulate the control device **380** to put it into a relative control mode, and then turn the rotating portion **386** to exercise relative control over the electrical loads. Various mechanisms for switching the control device **380** into a relative control mode may be provided. For example, a user may press and hold the actuation portion **384** to activate the relative control mode. A user may also activate the relative control mode through a contact based gesture (e.g., a “swipe” gesture, as described herein). The control device **380** may be configured to interpret such a “swipe” gesture as a command to put the control device into the relative control mode and act accordingly. As another example, a user may

activate the relative control mode through a non-contact based gesture. For instance, a user may hover a finger or wave a hand over the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** to signal an intent for the control device **380** to enter the relative control mode. The control device **380** may be configured to recognize the hovering or waving as a command to put the control device into a relative control mode and act accordingly

**[0162]** The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to provide a visual indication in response to detecting the user inputs depicted in FIGS. 7A and 7B. For example, the control circuit may be configured to, upon detecting a user input to set an amount of power delivered to one or more electrical loads to an absolute level (e.g., as described with reference to FIG. 7A), indicate the absolute level on the light bar **388**. For example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **388** to an intensity proportional to the absolute level (e.g., a higher intensity for a higher power level). Alternatively or additionally, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **388** along a length that extends clockwise from a central position at the bottom of the light bar **388** to a position along the circumference of the light bar **388**. The length of such an illumination (e.g., as defined by an amount of the light bar **388** that is illuminated) may correspond to and be indicative of the absolute level of power delivered to the electrical load. The illumination may fade away after a predetermined amount of time, or be maintained until the next adjustment.

**[0163]** When relative control is being applied, the control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to illuminate the light bar **388** into a specific pattern (e.g., multiple segments of varying intensities or colors), as illustrated in FIG. 7B. The control circuit may be further configured to alter the illumination pattern (e.g., successively alter the intensities or colors of the multiple segments) as the user input for relative control is being applied, so that an animation (e.g., imitation of a moving scrollbar and/or ridges of a scroll wheel) may be displayed on the light bar **388** to indicate that the power delivered to the electrical load is being gradually adjusted (e.g., by a predetermined amount at a time). The animation may move at a constant rate as the control is being applied or with varying speed dependent upon the user input (e.g., dependent on the amount of relative adjustment). Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to illuminate the light bar **388** (e.g., in a manner similar to the indication of an absolute power level described above) to indicate an average of the power levels delivered to a plurality of electrical loads.

**[0164]** FIGS. 7C and 7D depict examples of additional user inputs (e.g., such as gestures) that may be recognized by the control device **380** and translated into control signals for controlling an electrical load. The user inputs may be applied via the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** with or without physically contacting the touch sensitive surface. As shown in FIG. 7C, for example, the user input may have the characteristics of an upward “swipe” gesture, as described herein. The user input may cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit of the control device **380**. The signal may indicate to the control circuit that the user input has the characteristics of an upward “swipe” gesture. The control circuit may interpret the signal based on the characteristics reflected therein, and



generate a corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to control an electrical load controlled by the control device **380**.

[0165] Similarly, as shown in FIG. 7D, the user input may be characterized by a downward “swipe” gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384**, as described herein. A signal may be transmitted to the control circuit of the control device **380** in response to detecting the gesture. The signal may be reflective of the characteristics of the aforementioned downward “swipe” gesture. The control circuit may interpret the signal based on the characteristics reflected therein, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to control an electrical load controlled by the control device **380**.

[0166] Although FIGS. 7C and 7D depict the “swipe” gestures as vertical upward and downward swipes, it should be appreciated that a swipe motion can be applied in other directions and/or manners. For example, a swipe may be applied in a horizontal direction in either a left-to-right or right-to-left direction, or diagonally from one area of the touch sensitive surface to another. The scope of the disclosure herein with respect to a “swipe” is not limited to any particular manner in which the swipe is applied.

[0167] The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to interpret a user input corresponding to a “swipe” gesture as a command for an associated electrical load to enter a particular state. Such a particular state may be predetermined, and may correspond to, for example, an on/off state of the electrical load, a specific power level of the electrical load (e.g., a desired intensity level of a lighting load), a particular setting of the electrical load (e.g., a temperature setting of an HVAC system), and/or the like. For example, upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in an upward direction, the control circuit may be configured to generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause a lighting load to go to a full intensity dimming level (e.g., a high-end intensity). And upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in a downward direction, the control circuit may be configured to generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause a lighting load to go to a minimal dimming level (e.g., a low-end intensity, such as 1% or off).

[0168] The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to interpret a user input corresponding to a “swipe” gesture as a command to change the control device **380** into a specific operational mode. Such an operational mode may be, for example, an intensity control mode or a color control mode for a lighting load, a preset selection mode, an absolute or relative power control mode, and/or the like. For example, the control device **380** may be configured to, by default, operate in an intensity control mode. Upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in a right-to-left direction, the control circuit may be configured to change the control device **380** from the intensity control mode to a color control mode.

[0169] The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to provide a visual indication in response to detecting the user inputs depicted in FIGS. 7C and 7D. For example, if the control circuit is configured to put an associated electrical load into a particular state in response to detecting a “swipe” gesture, the control circuit may be further configured to illuminate the light bar **388** to indicate the particular state. For instance, upon controlling a lighting load to go to a full intensity dimming level (e.g., a high-end

intensity) or a minimal dimming level (e.g., a low-end intensity, such as 1% or off), the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **388** to indicate the respective dimming levels, as described above.

[0170] Relevant features described herein with reference to FIGS. 7C and 7D may be applicable to other types of user inputs. For example, the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** may be configured to be responsive to a “tap” or “poke” applied at a specific location of the touch sensitive surface. Such a “tap” or “poke” may, for example, be characterized by a touch-and-release, as described herein. The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to interpret such a “tap” or “poke” as a command for an associated electrical load to go to a desired power level, such as a command for a lighting load to go to a desired dimming level. The desired power level may be dependent upon a location of the touch sensitive surface **382** at which the “tap” or “poke” is detected (e.g., such as a position along the light bar **388**). The control circuit may generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause the command to be executed.

[0171] The touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** may be configured to be responsive to a “smack” gesture, as described herein. The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to interpret such a gesture as a command to toggle a state of an associated electrical load, for example from on to off or from off to on. In an example, the control circuit may be configured to, upon toggling an associated electrical load on in response to a “smack” gesture, put the associated electrical load into a last-known state (e.g., a state before the associated electrical load was turned off). Alternatively or additionally, the control circuit may be configured to interpret a “smack” gesture as a command for an associated electrical load to enter a predetermined state, including, for example, a particular power state of the electrical load (e.g., a desired intensity level of a lighting load), a particular setting of the electrical load (e.g., a temperature setting of an HVAC system), and/or the like.

[0172] The control device **380** may be used to control the color of light emitted by a lighting load. To facilitate color control operations, the control device **380** may be configured to provide one or more visual indications on the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** to assist with the color control operations. Such visual indications may be provided, for example, on the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384**. The visual indications may include a color gradient and/or one or more backlit virtual buttons that may be used to adjust a color setting of the lighting load.

[0173] FIG. 7E depicts an example of a color gradient that may be provided on the light bar **388** to facilitate a color control operation. A color gradient, as described above, may refer to any visual representation of a set of colors arranged in accordance to an order. The number of colors and the order in which those colors are arranged may vary from one implementation to the next, and should not limit the scope of this disclosure. Further, in the example shown in FIG. 7E, a color gradient is provided on the light bar **388** that extends along a perimeter of the actuation portion **384**. It should be appreciated, however, that the presentation of such a color gradient is not limited to any particular location, and does not need to be in a bar shape. Further, it should be noted that

the color gradient may be applied to the colors associated with the color temperatures of a black body radiator.

**[0174]** The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to present the color gradient in response to a user input. For example, the user input may be a touch-based gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). The control circuit may be configured to be responsive to such gestures and illuminate the light bar **388** to present the color gradient in response. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a wiggle of the rotating portion **386** (e.g., turning the rotating portion **386** in alternating rotational directions in rapid succession), and the control circuit may be configured to detect the wiggle (e.g., via an accelerometer) and illuminate the light bar **388** to present the color gradient in response. The user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device **380**. For example, the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** may be configured to detect a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface, and a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit indicating such detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device **380**). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, illuminate the light bar **388** to present the color gradient.

**[0175]** The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to present the color gradient in different ways. In an example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **388** with multiple colors each centering in a portion of the light bar **388** and gradually transitioning into the color of a neighboring portion. The different colors may be arranged in an order reflective of the respective red/green/blue (RGB) values of the colors, for example. Each of the colors displayed on the light bar **388** (e.g., the location of the corresponding color) may correspond to a desired color for one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **380**. The relationship between desired light colors for the lighting loads and different positions the color gradient (e.g., the respective locations of the colors on the light bar **388**) may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device **380**.

**[0176]** To select a color for the one or more lighting loads, a user of the control device **380** may actuate an area **389** of the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** that is adjacent to desired color displayed on the color gradient of the light bar **388**. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). A signal may be transmitted to the control circuit of the control device **380** in response to the actuation. The signal may be indicative of the actuation (e.g., the location of the actuation). Upon receiving the signal, the control circuit may determine a color corresponding to the location of the actuation, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to set a color of the one or more lighting loads to the determined color. For instance, the control circuit may be capable of identifying which color of the gradient displayed on the light bar **388** is adjacent to the location of actuation, and set the color of the lighting loads to the color corresponding to the location along the color gradient. This way, as a user slides a finger along the light bar **388**, the color of the lighting loads may be adjusted accordingly based on the position of the finger along the length of the light bar **388**.

**[0177]** The control circuit may be configured to assign a color to multiple lighting loads (e.g., in a zone controlled by

the control device **380**) in response to a single “tap” along the color gradient. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to assign a color for one lighting load in the zone of control in response to each “tap,” and assign the color to additional lighting loads in the zone of control in response to additional “taps” by a user. Further, the control circuit may be configured to, in response to a first “tap” by a user, associate a first color to one or more lighting loads, and, in response to a second “tap” by a user, associate a second color to the one or more lighting loads. The control circuit may be further configured to cause the one or more lighting loads to dynamically switch between the first and second associated colors (e.g., at a predetermine rate or in accordance with an external condition).

**[0178]** A user may manipulate the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** to change the color gradient displayed on the light bar **388**. For example, the control circuit of the control device **380** may initially illuminate the light bar **388** into a first set of colors (e.g., to display a first color gradient on the light bar **388**). Each of the first set of colors may represent a section of the visible color spectrum that corresponds to a specific wavelength range. A user may manipulate an area **374** of the touch sensitive surface adjacent to one of the first set of colors by applying, for example, a two-finger “open” gesture (e.g., fingers moving apart) or a force (e.g., via a finger press), next to one of the first set of colors. The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to, in response to the gesture, determine the section of the color spectrum that corresponds to the location of the actuation, and adjust the illumination of the light bar **388** so that the first set of colors is replaced with a second set of colors (e.g., to display a second color gradient on the light bar **388**). The second set of colors may correspond to colors that are within the section of the color spectrum associated with the location of the actuation (e.g., the second color gradient may represents a smaller range of the first color gradient). A user may then set a color for one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **388** by actuating the area **389** of the touch sensitive surface adjacent to one of the second set of colors, as described above.

**[0179]** While the second set of colors (e.g., the second color gradient) is displayed on the light bar **388**, the control circuit may be configured to change the display to revert to the first set of colors (e.g., the first color gradient) in response to a user input. For example, the control circuit may receive a signal indicating that a two-finger “pinch” gesture (e.g., fingers moving together) or a force (e.g., applied via a finger press) is detected by the touch sensitive surface in an area **389** adjacent to the second color gradient. The control circuit may interpret such a signal as a command to switch the display on the light bar **388** back to the first color gradient, and may illuminate the light bar **388** to effectuate the switch accordingly.

**[0180]** FIG. 7F depicts an example of another mechanism for adjusting a color (e.g., color temperature) of one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **380**. Although described with reference to color temperature control, it should be appreciated that the mechanism and user control described with reference to FIG. 7F may also be applied to full range color control. As shown, areas of the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** may be backlit to display soft or virtual buttons **390a**, **390b**, and/or indicator lights **392**. The virtual buttons **390a**, **390b**

and/or indicator lights 392 may be configured to be backlit by one or more light sources (e.g., LEDs). The control circuit of the control device 380 may be configured to dim the backlighting (e.g., turn off the backlighting or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device 380 is in a different operational mode or in an idle state so that a first user interface may be presented to a user of the control device 380. The control circuit may then illuminate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons 390a, 390b and/or the indicator lights 392 in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event) so that a second user interface may be presented to the user. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to maintain the backlighting in an “on” state so that the virtual buttons are always shown on the control device 380.

**[0181]** The user input that may trigger the display of the virtual buttons 390a, 390b and/or the indicator lights 392 may be, for example, a touch-based gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface 382 of the control device 380 (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). The control circuit of the control device 380 may be configured to be responsive to such gestures and activate the backlighting to present the virtual buttons 390a, 390b and/or the indicator lights 392 in response. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a wiggle of the rotating portion 394, and the control circuit may be configured to detect the wiggle and reveal the virtual buttons 390a, 390b and/or the indicator lights 392 in response. The user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device 380. For example, the touch sensitive surface 382 of the actuation portion 384 may be configured to detect a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface 382, and a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate such detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device 380). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons 390a, 390b and/or the indicator lights 392.

**[0182]** The areas of the touch sensitive surface 382 that correspond to the virtual buttons 390a, 390b may be associated with adjusting (e.g., increasing and decreasing) the color temperature of one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device 380. For example, a user may actuate the area of the touch sensitive surface 382 occupied by virtual button 390a via, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). In response to the actuation, a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit indicating that virtual button 390a has been actuated. The control circuit may interpret the actuation as a command to increase the color temperature of the lighting loads, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the increase accordingly. The increase may be, for example, a gradual increase (e.g., by a predetermined amount at each step) while the actuation (e.g., a press-and-hold) lasts, or a one-time increase (e.g., by a predetermined amount) in response to the actuation (e.g., a “tap”).

**[0183]** Similarly, the touch sensitive surface 382 may be configured to detect that the area of the surface occupied by the virtual buttons 390b has been actuated. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The touch sensitive surface 382 may detect the actuation, and a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit indicating the detection. The control circuit may be configured to interpret the actuation as a command to

decrease the color temperature of the lighting loads, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the decrease accordingly. The decrease may be, for example, a gradual decrease (e.g., by a predetermined amount at each step) while the actuation (e.g., a press-and-hold) lasts, or a one-time decrease (e.g., by a predetermined amount) in response to the actuation (e.g., a “tap”).

**[0184]** The control circuit of the control device 380 may be configured to illuminate the indicator lights 392 to provide feedback about color temperature adjustments in response to the virtual buttons 390a, 390b being actuated. For example, as the user actuates the virtual button 390a, the indicator lights 392 may be turn on one after another from right to left to signal that the color temperature of the lighting load is being increased. As the user actuates the virtual button 390b, the indicator lights 392 may be turned off one after another from left to right to signal that the color temperature of the lighting load is being decreased.

**[0185]** The control circuit of the control device 380 may be further configured to illuminate the light bar 388 to indicate a current color temperature of the one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device 380. For example, the control circuit may cause the light bar 388 to be illuminated to different intensities and/or lengths in proportion to a current color temperature of the one or more lighting loads (e.g., the light bar 388 may be illuminated to a higher intensity and/or a greater length in response to a higher color temperature).

**[0186]** The control device 380 may be used to activate a preset, zone, or operational mode associated with one or more electrical loads. As described above, a preset may correspond to one or more predetermined settings of the one or more electrical loads. For example, a preset may correspond to a preconfigured lighting scene (e.g., predetermined intensity/color settings of one or more lighting loads), a preconfigured combination of entertainment settings (e.g., music selection, volume of speakers, etc.), a preconfigured combination of environmental settings (e.g., temperature, humidity, shades, etc.), and/or the like. A zone may correspond to one or more electrical loads that are configured to be controlled by the control device 380. A zone may be associated with one specific location (e.g., a living room) or multiple locations (e.g., an entire house with multiple rooms and hallways). An operational mode of the control device 380 may be associated with controlling different types of electrical loads or different operational aspects of one or more electrical loads. Examples of operational modes may include a lighting control mode for controlling one or more lighting loads (e.g., controlling intensity and/or color of the lighting loads), an entertainment system control mode (e.g., controlling music selection and/or the volume of an audio system), an HVAC system control mode, a winter treatment device control mode (e.g., for controlling one or more shades), and/or the like. Such presets, zones, or operational modes may be configured via the control device 380 and/or via an external device (e.g., a mobile device) by way of a wireless communication circuit of the control device 380. Once configured, the presets, zones, or operational modes may be stored by the control device 380 in memory.

**[0187]** FIG. 7G depicts an example of a user interface that may be provided on the touch sensitive surface 382 of the control device 380 to facilitate preset, zone, and operational mode selections. As shown, areas of the touch sensitive surface 382 may be illuminated (e.g., backlit) to display soft

or virtual buttons **394a**, **394b**, **394c**. The illuminated areas may have different shapes, such as, for example, circles, squares, rectangles, etc. The areas may be thinned out compared to the rest of the touch sensitive surface to allow backlighting to emit through the thinned-out areas. The areas may be associated with respective indicia (e.g., texts or graphics) that indicate the purposes of the virtual buttons **394a-394c**. Backlighting may be provided, for example, by one or more light sources such as LEDs. The control circuit of the control device **380** may be configured to dim the backlighting (e.g., turn off the backlighting or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device **380** is in a different operational mode or in an idle state so that a first user interface may be presented to a user of the control device **380**. The control circuit may then illuminate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons **394a-394c** in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event) so that a second user interface may be presented to the user. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to maintain the backlighting in an “on” state so that the virtual buttons are always shown on the control device **380**.

**[0188]** The user input that may trigger the display of the virtual buttons **394a-394c** may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface of the control device **380** (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). Such a gesture may be detected by the touch sensitive surface, and a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the detection. The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons **394a-394c**. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a wiggle of the rotating portion **386** of the control device **380**, and the control circuit may be configured to detect the wiggle and activate the backlighting to display the virtual buttons **394a-394c**. The user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device **380**. For example, the touch sensitive surface **382** of the actuation portion **384** may be configured to detect a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface. A signal may then be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device **380**). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons **394a-394c**.

**[0189]** The areas of the touch sensitive surface **382** that correspond to the virtual buttons **394a-394c** may be designated for activating respective presets, zones, or operational modes associated with one or more electrical loads controlled by the control device **380**. The association between the virtual buttons **394a-394c** (e.g., locations of the virtual buttons **394a-394c**) and the presets, zones, or operational modes may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device **380**. To illustrate, a user of the control device **380** may actuate the area of the touch sensitive surface occupied by virtual button **394a** through, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The control circuit may receive an indication of the actuation (e.g., from the touch sensitive surface), interpret the actuation as a command to activate a first preset (e.g., a preconfigured lighting scene), a first zone (e.g., a hallway zone), or a first operational mode (e.g., a lighting control mode), and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the activation.

**[0190]** Similarly, the touch sensitive surface of the actuation portion may be configured to detect that the area of the touch sensitive surface occupied by virtual button **394b** (or **394c**) has been actuated through, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The control circuit may receive an indication of the actuation, and interpret the actuation as a command to activate a second preset (e.g., an entertainment scene), a second zone (e.g., a living room zone), or a second operational mode (e.g., a HVAC control mode) if the actuated button is **394b**, or to activate a third preset (e.g., a second lighting scene), a third zone (e.g., an entire house), or a third operational mode (e.g., an entertainment system control mode) if the actuated button is **394c**. The control circuit may then generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the activation.

**[0191]** The control circuit of the control device **380** may be further configured to provide an indication about which preset, zone, or operational mode has been activated. For example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **388** in different manners (e.g., with varying intensity and/or color) corresponding to different presets, zones, or operational modes being activated. Alternatively or additionally, the control circuit may uniquely illuminate the virtual button associated with an activated preset, zone, or operational mode (e.g., to cause the virtual button to flash) to inform the user of the activated preset, zone, or operational mode.

**[0192]** A user may use a gesture to cycle through a plurality of presets, zones, or operational modes on the touch sensitive surface of the control device **380**. For example, there may be more presets, zones, or operational modes configured in a load control system than what can be displayed on the touch sensitive surface **382** of the control device **380**. In those scenarios, a user may apply a gesture (e.g., a “swipe”) via the touch sensitive surface **382**, and the control circuit may be configured to, in response to the gesture, replace a first set of presets, zones, or operational modes that may be activated via the virtual buttons **394a-394c** with a second set. This way, the user may be able to cycle through all available presets, zones, or operational modes to choose one that meets the user’s needs. The control circuit may be further configured to change the indicia associated with the virtual buttons **394a-394c** to indicate currently associated presets, zones, or operational modes.

**[0193]** FIG. 7H depicts another example of a user interface that may be provided on the light bar **388** of the control device **380** to facilitate preset, zone, and operational mode selections. As shown, the control circuit of the control device **380** may illuminate the light bar **388** display discrete points **396** of illumination. For example, the discrete points **396** may correspond to different segments of the light bar **388** illuminated to different intensities and/or colors, or segments of the light bar **388** that may be illuminated to a same intensity and/or color but separated by segments of different intensities and/or colors. Each of the discrete points **396** (e.g., the location of each discrete point) may correspond to a preset, zone, or operational mode associated with one or more electrical loads controlled by the control device **380**. The illumination of the discrete points **396** may be based on their respective associated presets, zones, or operational modes. For example, when a preset corresponds to a lighting scene, the corresponding discrete point on the light bar **388** may be illuminated to display the dominant color of the lighting scene. Alternatively, the illumination of the corresponding discrete point on the light bar **388** may be

periodically altered (e.g., at a predetermined rate) to display each light color of the lighting scene (e.g., to cycle through the colors of the lighting loads in the lighting scene). The relationship between the presets, zones, or operational modes and the discrete points of the light bar 388 (e.g., the respective locations of the illuminated segments) may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device 380. The control circuit of the control device 380 may be configured to keep the light bar 388 illuminated in the aforementioned manner. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to dim the light bar 388 (e.g., turn off the illumination or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device 380 is in a different operational mode or in an idle state, and illuminate the light bar 388 to reveal the discrete points 396 in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event).

[0194] The user input that may trigger the illumination of the light bar 388 for preset, zone, or operational mode selection may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface of the control device 380 (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). Such a gesture may be detected by the touch sensitive surface, and a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the detection. The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, illuminate the light bar 388 to display the discrete points 396 that are representative of a plurality of presets, zones, or operational modes. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a wiggle of the rotating portion 396 of the control device 380, and the control circuit may be configured to detect the wiggle and illuminate the light bar 388 to display the discrete points 396 of illumination. The user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device 380. For example, the touch sensitive surface of the control device 380 may be configured to detect a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface. A signal may then be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device 380). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, illuminate the light bar 388 for scene selection.

[0195] To activate a specific preset, zone, or operational mode, a user may actuate an area of the touch sensitive surface 382 of the actuation portion 384 that is adjacent to one of the discrete points 396 of illumination on the light bar 388. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). In response to the actuation, a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the actuation (e.g., indicate a location of the actuation). Upon receiving the signal, the control circuit may determine a preset, zone, or operational mode that corresponds to the location of the actuation, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate the preset, zone, or operational mode accordingly (e.g., based on the stored relationship described above).

[0196] After a user has activated a preset, zone, or operational mode, the control circuit may provide an indication the user about the activated preset, zone, or operational mode. For example, the control circuit may uniquely illuminate the discrete point 396 of illumination on the light bar 388 that corresponds to the activated preset, zone, or operational mode. The unique illumination may be realized by, for example, flashing the relevant discrete point or illuminating the discrete point with a higher intensity so that it is highlighted relative to the other discrete point.

[0197] Preset, zone, or operational mode selection may be performed differently than described above. For example, selection may be made without utilizing the touch sensitive surface 382 of the actuation portion 384 of the control device 380. Rather, after illuminating the light bar 388 into the discrete points 396 representative of respective presets, zones, or operational modes, the control circuit of the control device 380 may be configured to detect a rotational movement of the rotating portion 386 and, in response, cause one of the discrete points 396 to be uniquely illuminated (e.g., with a higher intensity, flashing, etc.) to indicate that a preset, zone, or operational mode corresponding to the discrete point 396 is selected and ready to be activated. The rotational movement that may trigger the aforementioned action may be a wiggle, a rotation by a predetermined amount (e.g., such as a 45 degree rotation), a rotation with a specific speed or acceleration, etc. The rotating portion 386 may be configured to return to an idle position (e.g., an upright position) after being released by the user.

[0198] Activation of a selected preset, zone, or operational mode may be implemented in various ways. For example, after a preset, zone, or operational mode has been selected (e.g., indicated by highlight of a corresponding discrete point 396 on the light bar 388), the control circuit of the control device 380 may automatically activate the preset, zone, or operational mode if no additional user input is received within a predetermined amount of time (e.g., based on expiration of a timer). In such an example case, one of the presets, zones, or operational modes represented on the light bar 388 may be configured as a shortcut to exit the selection operation and return the control device 380 to a previous state. As another example, the control circuit of the control device 380 may be configured to not automatically activate the preset, zone, or operational mode, but rather wait for an explicit user input before taking such action. The explicit user input may be provided, for example, by pushing the actuation portion 384 in toward the base portion or actuating an area of the touch sensitive surface 382 of the control device 380.

[0199] After a preset, zone, or operational mode is selected, a user may change the selection via another similar rotational movement of the rotating portion. More generally, the control circuit may be configured to, in response to each such rotational movement of the rotating portion, uniquely highlight the next segment on the light bar 388 and select the corresponding preset, zone, or operational mode for activation.

[0200] In addition to or in lieu of the user interfaces described with reference to FIGS. 7G and 7H, the control circuit of the control device 380 may be configured to associate particular user gestures with presets, zones, or operational modes, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate a preset, zone, or operational mode in response to detecting an associated gesture. The gestures may be applied via the touch sensitive surface 382 of the control device 380. The gestures may be applied by direct contact with the touch sensitive surface 382 (e.g., a “swipe,” a “smack,” etc.), via proximity of anatomy to the touch sensitive surface (e.g., by hovering a finger over the surface), or otherwise. The association of user gestures with presets, zones, or operational modes may be user-programmable and reprogrammable. The association may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device 380. The touch sensitive surface 382 may be configured to detect a

gesture, and cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit indicating the detection. The control circuit may, in response, identify a preset, zone, or operational mode associated with the gesture, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate the preset, zone, or operational mode.

[0201] Although described as separate mechanisms and user inputs in FIG. 7A-H, it should be appreciated that the control device 380 may incorporate any number and/or combinations of the mechanisms and user inputs described with reference to FIG. 7A-H.

[0202] FIG. 8 depicts an example control device 500 that may be deployed as the dimmer switch 110 and/or the retrofit remote control device 112 in the lighting control system 100. The control device 500 may comprise a user interface 502 and a faceplate 504. The user interface 502 of the control device 500 may include an actuation portion 510 that is configured to be mounted to a base portion 512. The actuation portion 510 may comprise a front surface 514 having an upper portion 516 and a lower portion 518. The actuation portion 510 may be configured to pivot about a central axis in response to an actuation of the upper portion 516 and the lower portion 518. The control device 500 may be configured to control a lighting load of the lighting control system 100 to turn the load on in response to an actuation of the upper portion 516 and to turn the load off in response to an actuation of the lower portion 518. More generally, the control device 500 may be responsive to a dynamic motion of the actuation portion 510 (e.g., an actuation that causes movement of the surface of the actuation portion). The front surface 514 of the actuation portion 510 may also be configured as a touch sensitive surface (e.g., a capacitive touch surface) that is configured to receive (e.g., detect) inputs, such as gestures, from a user of the control device 500. The user interface 502 may also include a light bar 520 configured to be illuminated by one or more light sources (e.g., one or more LEDs) to visibly display information. The front surface 514 of the actuation portion 510 may be actuated along the light bar 520 to adjust the amount of power delivered to the lighting load according to the position of the actuation. More generally, the control device 500 may be responsive to a static operation of the actuation portion 510 (e.g., an actuation that does not cause movement of the surface of the actuation portion).

[0203] FIGS. 9A-10H depict another example remote control device 600 that may be deployed as the retrofit remote control device 112 in the lighting control system 100 shown in FIG. 1 and/or the control device 500 shown in FIG. 8. The remote control device 600 may be configured to be mounted over a paddle actuator of a standard light switch. The light switch may include a faceplate 606. The faceplate 606 may define an opening (e.g., a decorator-type opening) that extends therethrough. The faceplate 606 may be mounted via faceplate screws 609, for instance to a yoke of the switch. The standard light switch may be coupled in series electrical connection between an alternating current (AC) power source and one or more electrical loads.

[0204] As shown, the remote control device 600 may include a base portion 612 and an actuation portion 610 that is configured to be mounted to the base portion 612. The actuation portion 610 may include an actuator 611. The actuator 611 may comprise a front surface 614 that defines a user interface of the actuation portion 610. As shown, the actuator 611 may be configured such that the front surface

614 includes an upper portion 616 and a lower portion 618. The actuation portion 610 may include a light bar 620 that is configured to visibly display information at the front surface 614.

[0205] The actuation portion 610 may be configured for mechanical actuation of the actuator 611. For example, the actuator 611 may be supported about a pivot axis P1 that extends laterally between the upper and lower portions 616, 618. The actuation portion 610 may include mechanical switches 660 (as shown in FIG. 10F) disposed in respective interior portions of the actuator 611 that correspond to the upper and lower portions 616, 618 of the front surface 614. Actuations of the upper portion 616 of the front surface 614, for example via the application of a force to the upper portion 616 (e.g., resulting from a finger press) may cause the actuator 611 to rotate about the pivot axis P1 such that the upper portion 616 moves inward towards the base portion 612 and actuates a corresponding mechanical switch 660. Actuations of the lower portion 618 of the front surface 614, for example via the application of a force to the lower portion 618 (e.g., resulting from a finger press) may cause the actuator 611 to rotate about the pivot axis P1 such that the lower portion 618 moves inward towards the base portion 612 and actuates a corresponding mechanical switch 660. The actuation portion 610 may be configured such that feedback may be provided in response to actuations of actuator 611 (e.g., through movement of the actuation portion). The actuator 611 may be configured to resiliently reset to a rest position after actuations of the upper and lower portions 616, 618.

[0206] It should be noted that actuations of the upper portion 616 and lower portion 618 may not necessarily cause the actuator 611 to move (e.g., pivot about the pivot axis P1). The actuations may be detected via other mechanisms such as, for example, via a force sensor and/or a haptic feedback mechanism (e.g., a touch sensitive mechanism as described herein).

[0207] FIGS. 10A-10F depict the example remote control device 600, with the remote control device 600 unmounted from the light switch. As shown, the remote control device 600 may include a carrier 630 that may be configured to be attached to a rear surface of the actuation portion 610. The carrier 630 may support a flexible printed circuit board (PCB) 632 on which a control circuit (not shown) may be mounted. The remote control device 600 may include a battery 634 for powering the control circuit. The battery 634 may be received within a battery opening 636 defined by the carrier 630. The remote control device 600 may include a plurality of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) that may be mounted to the printed circuit board 632. The LEDs may be arranged to illuminate the light bar 620.

[0208] With reference to FIGS. 10G and 10H, the actuator 611 may be pivotally coupled to, or supported by, the base portion 612. For example, as shown the base portion 612 may define cylindrical protrusions 640 that extend outward from opposed sidewalls 642 of the base portion 612. The protrusions 640 may be received within openings 644 that extend into rear surfaces 648 of corresponding sidewalls 646 of the actuator 611. The protrusions 640 may define the pivot axis P1 about which the actuator 611 may pivot. As shown, each protrusion 640 may be held in place within a corresponding opening 644 by a respective hinge plate 650 (e.g., thin metal hinge plates). Each hinge plate 650 may be connected to the rear surface 648 of a respective sidewall

646, for example via heat stakes 652. It should be appreciated that for the sake of simplicity and clarity, the heat stakes 652 are illustrated in FIGS. 10G and 10H in an undeformed or unmelted state. The hinge plates 650 may be thin to maximize a distance between the hinge plate 650 and the bezel portion 605 of the light switch 602.

[0209] The remote control device 600 may transmit a control signal (e.g., a command) to one or more controlled electrical loads (e.g., one or more lighting loads that are controlled by the remote control device 600) in response to actuations applied to the actuation portion 610, for instance via the actuator 611. The remote control device 600 may transmit control signals (e.g., commands) to turn on one or more associated lighting loads in response to actuations applied to the upper portion 616 of the front surface 614, and may transmit control signals (e.g., commands) to turn off one or more lighting loads in response to actuations applied to the lower portion 618 of the front surface 614.

[0210] In accordance with an example implementation, the remote control device 600 may be configured to transmit control signals (e.g., commands) in response to receiving predetermined actuations at the actuation portion (e.g., via the actuator 611). For example, the remote control device 600 may be configured to transmit a control signal (e.g., a command) to turn one or more associated lighting loads on to full (e.g., 100% intensity) in response to a double tap applied to the upper portion 616 of the front surface 614 (e.g., two actuations applied to the upper portion 616 in quick succession). The remote control device 600 may be configured to transmit a control signal (e.g., a command) to perform a relative adjustment of intensity (e.g., relative to a starting intensity) in response to respective press and hold actuations applied to the upper and/or lower portions 616, 618 of the front surface 614. For example, the remote control device 600 may cause the respective intensities of one or more associated lighting loads to continually be adjusted (e.g., relative to corresponding starting intensities) while one of the upper or lower portions 616, 618 is continuously actuated.

[0211] The front surface 614 of the actuator 611 may further be configured as a touch sensitive surface (e.g., may include or define a capacitive touch surface). The capacitive touch surface may extend into portions of both the upper and lower surfaces 616, 618 of the front surface 614. This may allow the actuation portion 610 (e.g., the actuator 611) to receive and recognize actuations (e.g., point actuations and gestures) of the front surface 614. With such actuations, the actuator 611 may substantially maintains its position relative to the base portion (e.g., such actuations do not cause the actuator 611 to move relative to the base portion, or to move such that the respective mechanical switches 660 that correspond to the upper and lower portions 616, 618 are not actuated).

[0212] In accordance with the illustrated actuator 611, the upper portion 616 and the lower portion 618 of the front surface 614 define respective planar surfaces that are angularly offset relative to each other. In this regard, the touch sensitive portion of the front surface 614 of the actuator 611 may define and operate as a non-planar slider control of the remote control device 600. However, it should be appreciated that the actuator 611 is not limited to the illustrated geometry defining the upper and lower portions 616, 618. For example, the actuator may be alternatively configured to

define a front surface having any suitable touch sensitive geometry, for instance such as a curved or wave-shaped touch sensitive surface.

[0213] It should be appreciated that the control circuit of the remote control device 600 may be configured to interpret one or more point actuations and/or gestures applied via the touch sensitive surface as commands to control an electrical load controlled by the remote control device 600. The gestures may be user-programmable, reprogrammable, and custom gestures. Further, the touch sensitive surface (e.g., a touch sensitive device residing behind the touch sensitive surface) may define one or more linear columns that may provide a Y-axis output, one or more linear rows that provide respective X-axis outputs, or any combination linear columns and rows. The touch sensitive surface (e.g., a touch sensitive device residing behind the touch sensitive surface) may also include, for example, a two-dimensional touch element having both X-axis and Y-axis outputs. Such implementations may enable the remote control device 600 to control multiple electrical loads. For example, gestures applied to a first capacitive touch column may cause commands to be issued to a first lighting load associated with the first capacitive touch column, gestures applied to a second capacitive touch column may cause commands to be issued to a second lighting load associated with the second capacitive touch column, and gestures applied simultaneously to both the first and second capacitive touch columns may cause a command to be issued to both the first and second lighting loads.

[0214] Further, the remote control device 600 may be configured to, if more than one actuation is received via the actuator 611 within a short interval of time (e.g., at substantially the same time), determine which actuation should be responded to, for example by transmitting a command, and which actuation or actuations may be ignored. To illustrate, a user of the remote control device 600 may press the touch sensitive surface at a location proximate to the light bar 620, with sufficient force such that the actuator 611 pivots about the pivot axis and activates a corresponding one of the mechanical switches 660. Such an operation of the actuator 611 may comprise multiple actuations of the actuation portion 610. For instance, the location of the press of the front surface 614 along the light bar 620 may correspond to an indication of a desired intensity level of an associated lighting load, while the actuation of the mechanical switch 660 may be correspond to an indication by the user to turn on the lighting load to a last-known intensity. The remote control device 600 may be configured to in response to such actuations, ignore the capacitive touch input indication of intensity, and to transmit a command to the associated lighting load to turn on at the last-known intensity. It should be appreciated that the above is merely one illustration of how the remote control device 600 may be configured to respond to multiple such multi-part actuations of the actuation portion 610.

[0215] FIGS. 11A-11H depicts an example control device 580 that may be deployed as the dimmer switch 110 and/or the retrofit remote control device 112 in the lighting control system 100, the control device 500, and/or the remote control device 600. FIGS. 11A and 11B depict examples of user inputs that may be recognized by the control device 580 and translated into respective control signals for adjusting an amount of power delivered to one or more electrical loads. The user inputs may be provided via a touch sensitive

surface **582** of the control device **580**, and may have different characteristics (e.g., in term of spatial and/or timing properties) so that they may be interpreted as commands to apply different types of control over the electrical loads. For example, in FIG. **11A**, the user input may be characterized by a point actuation (e.g., a “tap”) applied to an area of the touch sensitive surface **582** adjacent to a light bar **584**. The user input may be detected by the touch sensitive surface **582**, and cause a signal to be transmitted to a control circuit of the control device **580** to indicate the detection. The signal may be reflective of the characteristics of the aforementioned “tap.” The control circuit may interpret the signal based on the characteristics reflected therein, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to control an electrical load controlled by the control device **580**. For example, the control circuit may, in response to the user input depicted in FIG. **11A**, generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to set an amount of power delivered to a plurality of electrical loads to an absolute level that is dependent upon the location of the user input. This way, as a user slides a finger along the light bar **584**, the amount of power delivered to the electrical loads may be raised or lowered according to the position of the finger along the length of the light bar **584**. The control circuit may rescale the adjustment amount that corresponds to a user input when the power level is near a low-end. The example rescaling techniques described in association with FIG. **4A** is equally applicable here.

[**0216**] In FIG. **11B**, the user input may be characterized by a non-transitory actuation (e.g., a press and hold) of the touch sensitive surface **582** that actuates either an upper portion **586** or a lower portion **588** of the touch sensitive surface. The control circuit may be configured to recognize such a user input as a “relative” input and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to adjust (e.g., gradually adjust) an amount of power delivered to a plurality of electrical loads by a relative adjustment amount (e.g., relative to a starting level), while allowing the lighting loads to maintain respective absolute power levels that are different from one another. For example, the control circuit may cause the power delivered to the electrical loads to be continually adjusted (e.g., at a predetermined rate) for the duration of the user input. For example, the user may press and hold the upper portion **586** of the touch sensitive surface **582** to cause an increase of the amount of power delivered to the plurality of electrical loads by the relative adjustment amount (as shown in FIG. **11B**), and press and hold the power portion **588** of the touch sensitive surface **582** to cause a decrease of the amount of power delivered to the plurality of electrical loads by the relative adjustment amount.

[**0217**] A user of the control device **580** may also apply a press-and-hold at a location of the touch sensitive surface **582** (e.g., at approximately a center of the touch sensitive surface), and at the same time apply a contemporaneous touch to a location of the touch sensitive surface **582** adjacent to the light bar **584**. The touch sensitive surface **582** may detect these simultaneous user inputs, and signal the detection to the control circuit of the control device **580**. The control circuit may be configured to, in response to the signaling, generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of electrical loads by a relative amount. The

relative amount of adjustment may be determined based on the location of the contemporaneous touch along the light bar **584**.

[**0218**] In addition, the user input may be characterized by contacts by multiple fingers (e.g., two fingers) in an area of the touch sensitive surface **614** of the control device **580** adjacent to the light bar **584**. In an example, such contacts may be a multi-finger slide applied by a user along the light bar **584**. The control circuit may be configured to recognize such a user input as a command for relative control, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to adjust (e.g., gradually adjust) an amount of power delivered to a plurality of electrical loads by a relative adjustment amount (e.g., relative to a starting level), while allowing the lighting loads to maintain respective absolute power levels that are different from one another. For example, the control circuit may cause the power delivered to the electrical loads to be adjusted by a percentage based on how far the fingers slide up or down the touch sensitive surface **614**. The adjustment may be made gradually (e.g., at a predetermined rate) as the fingers are moved across the touch sensitive surface **614**. An illustrative example of relative control and example techniques for rescaling an adjustment amount have been provided in association with FIG. **4B** (e.g., with reference to two lighting loads), and is equally applicable here.

[**0219**] The control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to provide a visual indication in response to detecting the user inputs depicted in FIGS. **11A** and **11B**. For example, the control circuit may be configured to, upon receiving a signal that is indicative of a user command to set an amount of power delivered to an electrical load to an absolute level (e.g., as depicted in FIG. **11A**), indicate the level on the light bar **584**. For example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **584** to an intensity proportional to the absolute level (e.g., a higher intensity for a higher power level). Additionally or alternatively, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **584** along a length that extends from the bottom of the light bar to a position along the length of the light bar. The length of such an illumination (e.g., as defined by an amount of the light bar **584** that is illuminated) may correspond to and be indicative of the absolute level of power delivered to the electrical load. The illumination may fade away after a predetermined amount of time, or be maintained until the next adjustment.

[**0220**] When relative control is being applied, the control circuit may be configured to illuminate the light bar **584** into multiple segments of varying intensities or colors, as illustrated in FIG. **11B**. The control circuit may be further configured to successively alter the intensities or colors of the multiple segments as the user input for relative control is being applied, so that a moving scrollbar and/or ridges of a scroll wheel may be imitated on the light bar **584** to indicate that the power delivered to the electrical load is being gradually adjusted (e.g., by a predetermined amount at a time). Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to illuminate the light bar **584** (e.g., in a manner similar to the indication of an absolute power level described above) to indicate an average of the power levels delivered to a plurality of electrical loads.

[**0221**] FIGS. **11C** and **11D** depict examples of additional user inputs (e.g., such as gestures) that may be recognized by the control device **580** and translated into control signals for controlling an electrical load. The user inputs may be



applied via the touch sensitive surface **582** of the control device **580** with or without physically contacting the touch sensitive surface. As shown, the user input may be an upward “swipe” gesture, as described herein. The user input may cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit of the control device **580**. The signal may indicate to the control circuit that the user input has the characteristics of an upward “swipe” gesture. The control circuit may interpret the signal based on the characteristics reflected therein, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to control an electrical load controlled by the control device **580**.

[0222] Similarly, as shown in FIG. 11D, the user input may be a downward “swipe” gesture, as described herein. Such a user input may cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit of the control device **580**, and the signal may be reflective of the characteristics of a downward “swipe” gesture. The control circuit may interpret the signal based on the characteristics reflected therein, and generate corresponding control data (e.g., a control signal) to control an electrical load controlled by the control device **580**.

[0223] Although FIGS. 11C and 11D depict the “swipe” gestures as upward and downward swipes, it should be appreciated that a swipe motion can be applied in other directions and/or manners. For example, a swipe may be applied in a horizontal direction in a left-to-right or right-to-left direction, or diagonally from one area of the touch sensitive surface to another. The scope of the disclosure herein with respect to a “swipe” is not limited to any particular manner in which the swipe is applied.

[0224] The control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to interpret a user input corresponding to a “swipe” gesture as a command for an associated electrical load to enter a particular state. Such a particular state may be predetermined, and may correspond to, for example, an on/off state of the electrical load, a specific power level of the electrical load (e.g., a desired intensity level of a lighting load), a particular setting of the electrical load (e.g., a temperature setting of an HVAC system), and/or the like. For example, upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in an upward direction, the control circuit may be configured to generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause a lighting load to go to a full intensity dimming level (e.g., a high-end intensity). And upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in a downward direction, the control circuit may be configured to generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause a lighting load to go to a minimal dimming level (e.g., a low-end intensity, such as 1% or off).

[0225] The control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to interpret a user input corresponding to a “swipe” gesture as a command to switch the control device **580** into a specific operational mode. Such an operational mode may be, for example, an intensity control mode or a color control mode for a lighting load, a preset selection mode, an absolute or relative power control mode, and/or the like. For example, the control device **580** may be configured to, by default, operate in an intensity control mode. Upon receiving a signal indicative of a “swipe” gesture in a right-to-left direction, the control circuit may be configured to switch the control device **580** from the intensity control mode to a color control mode.

[0226] The control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to provide a visual indication in response to

detecting the user inputs depicted in FIGS. 11C and 11D. For example, if the control circuit is configured to put an associated electrical load into a particular state in response to detecting a “swipe” gesture, the control circuit may be further configured to illuminate the light bar **584** to indicate the particular state. For instance, upon controlling a lighting load to go to a full intensity dimming level (e.g., a high-end intensity) or a minimal dimming level (e.g., a low-end intensity, such as 1% or off), the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **584** to indicate the respective dimming levels, as described above.

[0227] Relevant features described herein with reference to FIGS. 11C and 11D may be applicable to other types of user inputs. For example, the touch sensitive surface **582** of the control device **580** may be configured to be responsive to a “tap” or “poke” applied at a specific location of the touch sensitive surface. Such a “tap” or “poke” may, for example, be characterized by a touch-and-release, as described herein. The control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to interpret such a user input as a command for an associated electrical load to go to a desired power level, such as a command for a lighting load to go to a desired dimming level. The desired power level may be dependent upon a location of the touch sensitive surface **582** at which the “tap” or “poke” is detected (e.g., such as a position along the light bar **584**). The control circuit may generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to cause the command to be executed.

[0228] The touch sensitive surface **582** of the control device **580** may be configured to be responsive to a “smack” gesture, as described herein. The control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to interpret such a gesture as a command to toggle a state of an associated electrical load, for example from on to off or from off to on. In an example, the control circuit may be configured to, upon toggling an associated electrical load on in response to a “smack” gesture, put the associated electrical load into a last-known state (e.g., a state before the associated electrical load was turned off). Alternatively or additionally, the control circuit may be configured to interpret a “smack” gesture as a command for an associated electrical load to enter a predetermined state, including, for example, a particular power state of the electrical load (e.g., a desired intensity level of a lighting load), a particular setting of the electrical load (e.g., a temperature setting of an HVAC system), and/or the like.

[0229] The control device **580** may be used to control the color of light emitted by a lighting load. To facilitate color control operations, the control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to provide one or more visual indications on a front surface of the control device **580** to assist with the color control operations. Such visual indications may be provided, for example, on the touch sensitive surface **582**. The visual indications may include a color gradient and/or one or more backlit virtual buttons that may be used to adjust a color setting of the lighting load.

[0230] FIG. 11E depicts an example of a color gradient that may be provided on the control device **580** to facilitate a color control operation. A color gradient, as described above, may refer to any visual representation of a set of colors arranged in accordance to an order. The number of colors and the order in which those colors are arranged may vary from one implementation to the next, and should not limit the scope of this disclosure. Further, in the example

shown in FIG. 11E, a color gradient is provided on the light bar 584. It should be appreciated, however, that the presentation of such a color gradient is not limited to any particular location, and does not need to be in a bar shape. Further, it should be noted that the color gradient may be applied to the colors associated with the color temperatures of a black body radiator.

[0231] The control circuit of the control device 580 may be configured to present the color gradient in response to a user input. The user input may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580 (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). The control circuit may be configured to be responsive to such a gesture and illuminate the light bar 584 to present the color gradient in response. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device 580. For example, the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580 may be configured to detect a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface 582, and transmit a signal to the control circuit indicating such detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device 580). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, illuminate the light bar 584 to present the color gradient.

[0232] The control circuit of the control device 580 may be configured to present the color gradient in different ways. In an example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar 584 with multiple colors each centering in a portion of the light bar 584 and gradually transitioning into the color of a neighboring portion. The different colors may be arranged in an order reflective of the respective red/green/blue (RGB) values of the colors, for example. Each of the colors displayed on the light bar 584 (e.g., the location of the corresponding colors) may correspond to a desired color for one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device 580. The relationship between desired light colors for the lighting loads and positions along the color gradient (e.g., the respective locations of the colors on the light bar 584) may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device 580.

[0233] To select a color for the one or more lighting loads, a user of the control device 580 may actuate an area of the touch sensitive surface 582 adjacent to one of the multiple colors displayed on the light bar 584. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The touch sensitive surface 582 may be configured to detect the actuation, and cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the actuation (e.g., indicate the location of the actuation). Upon receiving the signal, the control circuit may determine a color corresponding to the location of the actuation, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to set a color of the one or more lighting loads to the determined color. For instance, the control circuit may be capable of identifying which one of the colors of the gradient displayed on the light bar 584 is adjacent to the location of actuation, and set the color of the lighting loads to the color corresponding to the location along the color gradient. This way, as a user slides a finger along the light bar 584, the color of the lighting loads may be adjusted accordingly based on the position of the finger along the length of the light bar 584.

[0234] A user of the control device 580 may manipulate the touch sensitive surface 614 to change the color gradient

displayed on the light bar 584. For example, the control circuit of the control device 580 may initially illuminate the light bar 584 into a first set of colors (e.g., to display a first color gradient on the light bar 584). Each of the first set of colors may represent a section of the visible color spectrum that corresponds to a specific wavelength range. A user of the control device 580 may actuate an area of the touch sensitive surface 582 adjacent to one of the first set of colors. The actuation may be, for example, a two-finger “open” gesture (e.g., fingers moving apart) or a force (e.g., via a finger press) applied next to one of the first set of colors. The touch sensitive surface 582 may be configured to detect the actuation, and cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the actuation. The control circuit may determine, based on the signal, a section of the color spectrum that corresponds to the location of the actuation, and adjust the illumination of the light bar so that the first set of colors is replaced with a second set of colors (e.g., to display a second color gradient on the light bar 584). The second set of colors may correspond to colors that are within the section of the color spectrum associated with the location of the actuation (e.g., the second color gradient may represent a smaller range of the first color gradient). A user may then set a color for one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device 580 by actuating an area of the touch sensitive surface 582 next to one of the second set of colors, as described above.

[0235] While the second set of colors (e.g., the second color gradient) is displayed on the light bar 584, the control circuit may be configured to, in response to a user input, change the display to revert to the first set of colors (e.g., the first color gradient). For example, the control circuit may receive a signal indicating that of a two-finger “pinch” gesture (e.g., fingers moving together) or a force (e.g., applied via a finger press) is detected by the touch sensitive surface 582 in an area adjacent to the second color gradient. The control circuit may interpret such a signal as a command to switch the display on the light bar 584 back to the first color gradient, and may effectuate the switch accordingly.

[0236] FIG. 11F depicts an example of another mechanism for adjusting a color (e.g., color temperature) of one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device 580. Although described with reference to color temperature control, it should be appreciated that the mechanism and user control described with reference to FIG. 11F may also be applied to full range color control. As shown, areas of the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580 may be backlit to display soft or virtual buttons 590a, 590b, and/or indicator lights 592. The virtual buttons 590a, 590b and/or indicator lights 592 may be configured to be backlit by one or more light sources (e.g., LEDs). The control circuit of the control device 580 may be configured to dim the backlighting (e.g., turn off the backlighting or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device 580 is in a different operational mode or in an idle state so that a first user interface may be presented to a user of the control device 580. The control circuit may then illuminate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons 590a, 590b and/or the indicator lights 592 in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event) so that a second user interface may be presented to the user. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to maintain the backlighting in an “on” state so that the virtual buttons are always shown on the control device 580.

[0237] The user input that may trigger the display of the virtual buttons **590a**, **590b** and/or the indicator lights **592** may be, for example, a touch-based gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface of the control device **580** (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device **580**. For example, the touch sensitive surface **582** of the control device **580** may be configured to detect a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface, and cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device **580**). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons **590a**, **590b** and/or the indicator lights **592**.

[0238] The areas of the touch sensitive surface **582** that correspond to the virtual buttons **590a**, **590b** may be associated with adjusting (e.g., increasing and decreasing) the color temperature of one or more lighting loads controlled by the control device **580**. For example, a user of the control device **580** may actuate the area of the touch sensitive surface **582** occupied by virtual button **590a**. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The actuation may cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit indicating that virtual button **590a** has been actuated. The control circuit may interpret the actuation as a command to increase the color temperature of the lighting loads, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the increase accordingly. The increase may be, for example, a gradual increase (e.g., by a predetermined amount at each step) while the actuation (e.g., a press-and-hold) lasts, or a one-time increase (e.g., by a predetermined amount) in response to the actuation (e.g., a “tap”).

[0239] Similarly, the touch sensitive surface **582** may be configured to detect that the area of the touch sensitive surface **582** occupied by the virtual buttons **590a** has been actuated. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The touch sensitive surface **582** may detect the actuation, and cause a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit indicating that the actuation has occurred. The control circuit may be configured to interpret the actuation as a command to decrease the color temperature of the lighting loads, and generate a control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the decrease accordingly. The decrease may be, for example, a gradual decrease (e.g., by a predetermined amount at each step) while the actuation (e.g., a press-and-hold) lasts, or a one-time decrease (e.g., by a predetermined amount) in response to the actuation (e.g., a “tap”).

[0240] The control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to illuminate the indicator lights **592** to provide feedback about color temperature adjustments in response to the virtual buttons **590a**, **590b** being actuated. For example, as the user actuates the virtual button **590a**, the indicator lights **592** may be turn on one after another from bottom up to signal that the color temperature of the lighting load is being increased. As the user actuates the virtual button **590b**, the indicator lights **592** may be turned off one after another from top to bottom to signal that the color temperature of the lighting load is being decreased.

[0241] The control circuit of the control device **580** may be further configured to illuminate the light bar **584** to

indicate a current color temperature of the one or more lighting loads controlled by the remote control device **580**. For example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar **584** to different intensities and/or lengths in proportion to a current color temperature of the one or more lighting loads. For instance, the light bar **584** may be illuminated to a higher intensity and/or a greater length in response to a higher color temperature.

[0242] The control device **580** may be used to activate a preset, zone, or operational mode associated with one or more electrical loads. A preset may correspond to one or more predetermined settings of the one or more electrical loads. For example, a preset may correspond to a preconfigured lighting scene (e.g., predetermined intensity/color settings of one or more lighting loads), a preconfigured combination of entertainment settings (e.g., music selection, volume of speakers, etc.), a preconfigured combination of environmental settings (e.g., temperature, humidity, shades, etc.), and/or the like. Such presets may be configured via the control device **580** and/or via an external device (e.g., a mobile device) by way of a wireless communication circuit of the control device **580**. A zone may correspond to one or more electrical loads that are configured to be controlled by the control device **580**. A zone may be associated with one specific location (e.g., a living room) or multiple locations (e.g., an entire house with multiple rooms and hallways). An operational mode of the control device **580** may be associated with controlling different types of electrical loads or different operational aspects of one or more electrical loads. Examples of operational modes may include a lighting control mode for controlling one or more lighting loads (e.g., controlling intensity and/or color of the lighting loads), an entertainment system control mode (e.g., controlling music selection and/or the volume of an audio system), an HVAC system control mode, a winter treatment device control mode (e.g., for controlling one or more shades), and/or the like. Once configured, the presets may be stored by the control device **580** in memory.

[0243] FIG. 11G depicts an example of a user interface that may be provided on the touch sensitive surface **582** of the control device **580** to facilitate preset, zone, and operational mode selection. As shown, areas of touch sensitive surface **582** may be illuminated (e.g., backlit) to display soft or virtual buttons **594a**, **594b**, **594c**, **594d**. The illuminated areas may have different shapes, such as, for example, circles, squares, rectangles, etc. The areas may be thinned out compared to the rest of the touch sensitive surface **582** to allow backlighting to emit through the thinned-out areas. The areas may be associated with respective indicia (e.g., texts or graphics) that indicate the purposes of the virtual buttons **594a-594d**. Backlighting may be provided, for example, by one or more light sources (e.g., LEDs). The control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to dim the backlighting (e.g., turn off the backlighting or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device **580** is in a different operational mode or in an idle state so that a first user interface may be presented to a user of the control device **580**. The control circuit may then illuminate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons **594a-594d** in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event) so that a second user interface may be presented to the user. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to maintain the backlight-

ing in an “on” state so that the virtual buttons are always shown on the control device 580.

[0244] The user input that may trigger the display of the virtual buttons 594a-594d may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580 (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). Such a gesture may be detected by the touch sensitive surface 614, which may transmit a signal to the control circuit to indicate the detection. The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons 594a-594d. Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device 580. For example, the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580 may be configured to detect a finger or hand hovering over the touch sensitive surface 582, and cause a signal to be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate such detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device 580). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, activate the backlighting to reveal the virtual buttons 594a-594d.

[0245] The areas of the touch sensitive surface 582 that correspond to the virtual buttons 594a-594d may be designated for activating respective presets, zones, or operational modes associated with one or more electrical loads controlled by the control device 580. The association between the virtual buttons 594a-594d (e.g., locations of the virtual buttons 594a-594d) and the presets, zones, or operational modes may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device 580. To illustrate, a user of the control device 580 may actuate the area of the touch sensitive surface 582 occupied by virtual button 594a. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). In response to the actuation, a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit of control device 580 indicating that virtual button 594a has been actuated. The control circuit may interpret the actuation as a command to activate a first preset (e.g., a lighting scene), a first zone (e.g., a hallway zone), or a first operational mode (e.g., a lighting control mode), and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the activation accordingly.

[0246] Similarly, the touch sensitive surface 582 may be configured to detect that the area of the touch sensitive surface 582 occupied by virtual button 594b (or 594c or 594d) has been actuated by, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). In responsive, a signal may be transmitted to the control circuit to indicate the actuation. The control circuit may interpret the actuation as a command to activate another preset (e.g., an entertainment scene), zone (e.g., an entire house), or operational mode (e.g., an HVAC control mode), and may generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to effectuate the activation accordingly.

[0247] The control circuit may be further configured to provide an indication about which preset, zone, or operational mode has been activated. For example, the control circuit may illuminate the light bar 584 in different manners (e.g., with varying intensity and/or color) corresponding to different presets, zones, or operational modes being activated. Alternatively or additionally, the control circuit may uniquely illuminate the virtual button associated with an activated preset, zone, or operational mode (e.g., to cause the virtual button to flash) to inform the user of the activated preset, zone, or operational mode.

[0248] A user may use a gesture to cycle through a plurality of presets, zones, or operational modes on the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580. For example, there may be more presets, zones, or operational modes configured in a load control system than what can be displayed on the touch sensitive surface 582. In those scenarios, a user may apply a gesture (e.g., a “swipe”) via the touch sensitive surface 582, and the control circuit may be configured to, in response to the gesture, replace a first set of presets, zones, or operational modes that may be activated via the virtual buttons 594a-594d with a second set. This way, the user may be able to cycle through all available presets, zones, or operational modes to choose one that meets the user’s needs. The control circuit may be further configured to change the indicia associated with the virtual buttons 594a-594d to indicate currently associated presets, zones, or operational modes.

[0249] FIG. 11H depicts another example of a user interface that may be provided on the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580 to facilitate preset, zone, and operational mode selections. As shown, the control circuit of the control device 580 may illuminate the light bar 584 to display discrete points 596 of illumination. For example, the discrete points 596 may correspond to different segments of the light bar 584 illuminated to different intensities and/or colors, or segments of the light bar 584 that may be illuminated to a same intensity and/or color but separated by segments of different intensities and/or colors. Each of the discrete points 596 (e.g., the location of each discrete point) may correspond to a preset, zone, or operational mode associated with one or more electrical loads controlled by the control device 580. The illumination of the discrete points 596 may be based on their respective associated presets, zones, or operational modes. For example, when a preset corresponds to a lighting scene, the corresponding discrete point on the light bar 584 may be illuminated to display the dominant color of the lighting scene. Alternatively, the illumination of the corresponding discrete point on the light bar 584 may be periodically altered (e.g., at a predetermined rate) to display each light color of the lighting scene (e.g., to cycle through the colors of the lighting loads in the lighting scene). The relationship between the presets, zones, or operational modes and the discrete points 596 of the light bar 584 (e.g., the respective locations of the illuminated segments) may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device 580. The control circuit of the control device 580 may be configured to keep the light bar 584 illuminated in the aforementioned manner. Alternatively, the control circuit may be configured to dim the light bar 584 (e.g., turn off the illumination or make it not easily perceivable by a user) when the control device 580 is in a different operational mode or in an idle state, and illuminate the light 584 620 to reveal the multiple discrete points in response to a user input or a particular event (e.g., a predetermined timing event).

[0250] The user input that may trigger the display of the discrete points 596 of illumination on the light bar 584 may be, for example, a gesture applied to the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580 (e.g., a “swipe” or “smack” gesture). Alternatively or additionally, the user input may be a gesture effectuated without any physical contact with the control device 580. For example, the touch sensitive surface 582 of the control device 580 may be configured to be responsive to a finger or hand hovering over

the touch sensitive surface **582**, and transmit a signal to the control circuit to indicate the detection (e.g., the detection may more generally indicate proximity of a user to the control device **580**). The control circuit may, in response to receiving the signal, illuminate the light bar **584** to display the multiple discrete points **596** for preset selection.

**[0251]** To activate a specific preset, zone, or operational mode, a user of the control device **580** may manipulate an area of the touch sensitive surface **614** adjacent to one of the discrete points **596** of illumination on the light bar **584** to cause an actuation of the touch sensitive surface **582**. The actuation may be, for example, a point actuation (e.g., a “tap” or “poke”). The touch sensitive surface **582** may be configured to detect the actuation, and transmit a signal to the control circuit indicating the actuation. Upon receiving the signal, the control circuit may determine a location of the actuation, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate the preset, zone, or operational mode associated with the determined location (e.g., based on the stored relationship described above).

**[0252]** The control circuit may be further configured to provide an indication of which preset, zone, or operational mode has been activated. For example, once a user has activated a preset, zone, or operational mode, the control circuit may uniquely illuminate the segment of the light bar **584** corresponding to the activated preset, zone, or operational mode. The unique illumination may be realized, for example, by flashing the relevant segment or illuminating the segment with a higher intensity so that it is highlighted relative to the other segments.

**[0253]** In addition to or in lieu of the user interfaces described with reference to FIGS. **11G** and **11H**, the control circuit of the control device **580** may be configured to associate particular user gestures with presets, zones, or operational modes, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate a preset, zone, or operational mode in response to detecting an associated gesture. The gestures may be applied via the touch sensitive surface **582** of the control device **580**. The gestures may be applied by direct contact with the touch sensitive surface **582** of the control device **580** (e.g., a “swipe,” a “smack,” etc.), via proximity of anatomy to the touch sensitive surface **582** (e.g., by hovering a finger over the touch sensitive surface **582**), or otherwise. The association of user gestures with presets, zones, or operational modes may be user-programmable and reprogrammable. The association may be stored, for example, in a memory of the control device **580**. The touch sensitive surface **582** may be configured to detect a gesture, and transmit a signal to a control circuit of the control device **580** to indicate the detection of the gesture. The control circuit may, in response, identify a preset, zone, or operational mode associated with the gesture, and generate control data (e.g., a control signal) to activate the preset, zone, or operational mode.

**[0254]** Although described as separate mechanisms and user inputs in FIG. **11A-11H**, it should be appreciated that the control device **580** may incorporate any number and/or combinations of the mechanisms and user inputs described with reference to FIG. **11A-H**.

**[0255]** FIG. **12** is a simplified equivalent schematic diagram of an example control device **700** (e.g., a remote control device), which may be deployed as the remote control devices **112-118** in the lighting control system **100**, the control devices **200**, **280**, **300**, **380**, **500**, **580**, and/or the

remote control devices **220**, **310**, **600**. The control device **700** may include a control circuit **730**, a rotational sensing circuit **732**, one or more actuators **734** (e.g., buttons and/or switches), a touch sensitive device **736**, a wireless communication circuit **738**, a memory **740**, a battery **742**, and/or one or more LEDs **744**. The memory **740** may be configured to store one or more operating parameters (e.g., such as a preconfigured color scene or a preset light intensity) of the control device **700**. The battery **742** may provide power to one or more of the components shown in FIG. **12**.

**[0256]** The rotational sensing circuit **732** may be configured to translate a force applied to a rotating mechanism (e.g., such as the rotational portion **305** of the control device **300**) into an input signal and provide the input signal to the control circuit **730**. The rotational sensing circuit **732** may include, for example, a Hall-effect sensor, a mechanical encoder, and/or an optical encoder. The rotational sensing circuit **732** may also operate as an antenna of the control device **700**. The one or more actuators **734** may include a button or switch (e.g., a mechanical button or switch, or an imitation thereof) such as those described in association with the actuators **306**, **510** of the control devices **300**, **500**. The actuators **734** may be configured to send respective input signals to the control circuit **730** in response to actuations of the actuators **734** (e.g., in response to movements of the actuators **734**). The touch sensitive device **736** may include a capacitive or resistive touch element. Examples of such a touch sensitive device may include the touch sensitive circuit **240** of remote control device **220**, the touch sensitive surface of the remote control device **310**, and the touch sensitive surface of the control device **500**. The touch sensitive device **736** may be configured to detect point actuations and/or gestures (e.g., the gestures may be effectuated with or without physical contacts with the touch sensitive device **736**), and provide respective input signals to the control circuit **730** indicating the detection.

**[0257]** It should be noted that, although depicted as including all of the rotational sensing circuit **732**, the actuators **734**, and the touch sensitive device **736**, the control device **700** may include any combination of the foregoing components (e.g., one or more of those components).

**[0258]** The control circuit **730** may be configured to translate the input signals provided by the rotational sensing circuit **732**, the actuators **734**, and/or the touch sensitive device **736** into control data (e.g., digital control signals) for controlling one or more electrical loads. The control circuit **730** may cause the control data (e.g., digital control signals) to be transmitted to the electrical loads via the wireless communication circuit **738**. For example, the wireless communication circuit **738** may transmit a control signal including the control data to the one or more electrical loads or to a central controller of the concerned load control system. The control circuit **730** may illuminate the LEDs **744** to present a light bar (e.g., such as the light bars **208**, **308**, **520**) and/or one or more indicator lights (e.g., such as the indicator lights **292**, **392**, **592**) to provide feedback about various conditions.

**[0259]** FIG. **13** is a simplified block diagram of an example control device **800** (e.g., a dimmer switch) that may be deployed as, for example, the dimmer switch **80** of the lighting control system **100** and/or the control devices **200**, **280**, **300**, **380**, **500**, **580**. The control device **800** may include a hot terminal **H** that may be adapted to be coupled to an AC power source **802**. The control device **800** may include a

dimmed hot terminal DH that may be adapted to be coupled to an electrical load, such as a lighting load **804**. The control device **800** may include a controllably conductive device **810** coupled in series electrical connection between the AC power source **802** and the lighting load **804**. The controllably conductive device **810** may control the power delivered to the lighting load. The controllably conductive device **810** may include a suitable type of bidirectional semiconductor switch, such as, for example, a triac, a field-effect transistor (FET) in a rectifier bridge, two FETs in anti-series connection, or one or more insulated-gate bipolar junction transistors (IGBTs). An air-gap switch **829** may be coupled in series with the controllably conductive device **810**. The air-gap switch **829** may be opened and closed in response to actuations of an air-gap actuator (not shown). When the air-gap switch **829** is closed, the controllably conductive device **810** is operable to conduct current to the load. When the air-gap switch **829** is open, the lighting load **804** is disconnected from the AC power source **802**.

[0260] The control device **800** may include a control circuit **814**. The control circuit **814** may include one or more of a processor (e.g., a microprocessor), a microcontroller, a programmable logic device (PLD), a field programmable gate array (FPGA), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), or any suitable controller or processing device. The control circuit **814** may be operatively coupled to a control input of the controllably conductive device **810**, for example, via a gate drive circuit **812**. The control circuit **814** may be used for rendering the controllably conductive device **810** conductive or non-conductive, for example, to control the amount of power delivered to the lighting load **804**.

[0261] The control circuit **814** may receive a control signal representative of the zero-crossing points of the AC main line voltage of the AC power source **802** from a zero-crossing detector **816**. The control circuit **814** may be operable to render the controllably conductive device **810** conductive and/or non-conductive at predetermined times relative to the zero-crossing points of the AC waveform using a phase-control dimming technique. Examples of dimmers are described in greater detail in commonly-assigned U.S. Pat. No. 7,242,150, issued Jul. 10, 2007, entitled Dimmer Having a Power Supply Monitoring Circuit; U.S. Pat. No. 7,546,473, issued Jun. 9, 2009, entitled Dimmer having a microprocessor-controlled power supply; and U.S. Pat. No. 8,664,881, issued Mar. 4, 2014, entitled Two-wire dimmer switch for low-power loads, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0262] The control device **800** may include a memory **818**. The memory **818** may be communicatively coupled to the control circuit **814** for the storage and/or retrieval of, for example, operational settings, such as, lighting presets and associated preset light intensities. The memory **818** may be implemented as an external integrated circuit (IC) or as an internal circuit of the control circuit **814**. The control device **800** may include a power supply **820**. The power supply **820** may generate a direct-current (DC) supply voltage  $V_{cc}$  for powering the control circuit **814** and the other low-voltage circuitry of the control device **800**. The power supply **820** may be coupled in parallel with the controllably conductive device **810**. The power supply **820** may be operable to conduct a charging current through the lighting load **804** to generate the DC supply voltage  $V_{cc}$ .

[0263] The control circuit **814** may be responsive to inputs received from actuators **830**, a rotational position sensing circuit **840**, and/or a touch sensitive device **850**. The control circuit **814** may control the controllably conductive device **810** to adjust the intensity of the lighting load **804** in response to the input received via the actuators **830**, the rotational position sensing circuit **840**, and/or the touch sensitive device **850**.

[0264] The rotary position sensing circuit **840** may be configured to translate a force applied to a rotating mechanism (e.g., such as the rotational portion **305** of the control device **300**) into an input signal and provide the input signal to the control circuit **814**. The rotational position sensing circuit **840** may include, for example, a Hall-effect sensor, a mechanical encoder, and/or an optical encoder. The rotational position sensing circuit **840** may also operate as an antenna of the control device **800**. The actuators **830** may include a button or switch (e.g., a mechanical button or switch, or an imitation thereof) such as those described in association with the actuators **306**, **510** of the control devices **300**, **500**. The actuators **830** may be configured to send respective input signals to the control circuit **814** in response to actuations of the actuators **830** (e.g., in response to movements of the actuators **830**). The touch sensitive device **850** may include a capacitive or resistive touch element. Examples of such a touch sensitive device may include the touch sensitive circuit **240** of remote control device **220**, the touch sensitive surface of the remote control device **310**, and the touch sensitive surface of the control device **500**. The touch sensitive device **850** may be configured to detect point actuations and/or gestures (e.g., the gestures may be effectuated with or without physical contacts with the touch sensitive device **850**), and provide respective input signals to the control circuit **814** indicating the detection. The control circuit **814** may be configured to translate the input signals received from the actuators **830**, the rotational position sensing circuit **840**, and/or the touch sensitive device **850** into control data (e.g., one or more control signals), and cause the control data to be transmitted to the lighting load **804** or a central controller of the load control system.

[0265] It should be noted that, although depicted as including all of the rotational sensing circuit **840**, the actuators **830**, and the touch sensitive device **850**, the control device **800** may include any combination of the foregoing components (e.g., one or more of those components).

[0266] The control device **800** may comprise a wireless communication circuit **822**. The wireless communication circuit **822** may include for example, a radio-frequency (RF) transceiver coupled to an antenna for transmitting and/or receiving RF signals. The wireless communication circuit **822** may also include an RF transmitter for transmitting RF signals, an RF receiver for receiving RF signals, or an infrared (IR) transmitter and/or receiver for transmitting and/or receiving IR signals. The wireless communication circuit **822** may be configured to transmit a control signal that includes the control data (e.g., a digital message) generated by the control circuit **814** to the lighting load **804**. As described herein, the control data may be generated in response to a user input (e.g., a point actuation or a gesture) to adjust one or more operational aspects of the lighting load **804**. The control data may include a command and/or identification information (e.g., such as a unique identifier) associated with the control device **800**. In addition to or in lieu of transmitting the control signal to the lighting load

**804**, the wireless communication circuit **822** may be controlled to transmit the control signal to a central controller of the lighting control system.

**[0267]** The control circuit **814** may be configured to illuminate visual indicators **860** (e.g., LEDs) to provide feedback of a status of the lighting load **804**, to indicate a status of the control device **800**, and/or to assist with a control operation (e.g., to provide a color gradient for controlling the color of the lighting load **804**, to present backlit virtual buttons for preset, zone, or operational mode selection, etc.). The visual indicators **860** may be configured to illuminate a light bar and/or to serve as indicators of various conditions.

1. A control device configured for use in a lighting control system to control respective amount of power delivered to a plurality of lighting loads, the lighting loads being external to the control device, the control device comprising:

- a user input device configured to detect a first user input and a second user input, the user input device comprising a touch sensitive surface;
- a control circuit configured to generate first control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads to an absolute power level based on the first user input, and generate second control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads by a relative amount based on the second user input; and
- a communication circuit configured to transmit a first control signal including the first control data and a second control signal including the second control data.

2. The control device of claim 1, further comprising:

- a load control circuit adapted to be electrically coupled in series between an AC power source and the plurality of lighting loads for controlling power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads

3. The control device of claim 1, wherein the control device is configured to be mounted over a toggle actuator of a mechanical switch that controls whether power is delivered to the plurality of lighting loads.

4. (canceled)

5. The control device of claim 1, further comprising one or more visual indicators, wherein the one or more visual indicators comprise a light bar illuminated by one or more light sources.

6. (canceled)

7. The control device of claim 5, wherein control circuit is configured to map a plurality of locations on the touch sensitive surface adjacent to the one or more visual indicators to respective absolute power levels that range between a minimum power level and a maximum power level, and wherein the first user input is a one-finger touch applied to one of the plurality of locations on the touch sensitive surface, and the control circuit is configured to generate the first control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads to the absolute power level mapped to the one of the plurality of locations.

8. (canceled)

9. The control device of claim 7, wherein the control circuit is configured to illuminate the one or more visual indicators in response to the first user input to indicate the absolute power level.

10. The control device of claim 5, wherein the second user input is a multi-finger slide applied on the touch sensitive surface, and the control circuit is configured to generate the

second control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads by a relative adjustment amount based on a length of the multi-finger slide.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. The control device of claim 5, wherein the second user input comprises a press-and-hold applied to a location of the touch sensitive surface at approximately a center of the touch sensitive surface, and a contemporaneous touch applied to a location of the touch sensitive surface adjacent to the one or more visual indicators, and the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads by a relative amount.

14. The control device of claim 1, wherein the touch sensitive surface comprises a first portion and a second portion, the second user input is a press-and-hold applied to the first portion or the second portion, and the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to increase the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads by a first relative amount when the press-and-hold is applied to the first portion, and to decrease the respective amount of power delivered to the plurality of lighting loads by a second relative amount when the press-and-hold is applied to the second portion.

15. (canceled)

16. The control device of claim 1, wherein the user input device further comprises a rotating portion that surrounds the touch sensitive surface, the first user input is applied via a rotational movement of the rotating portion, and the second user input is applied via the touch sensitive surface.

17. A control device that is configured for use in a load control system to control one or more electrical loads external to the control device, the control device comprising:

- a base portion;
- a touch sensitive device;
- an actuation portion supported by the base portion and defining a front surface, the touch sensitive device configured to reside behind the front surface of the actuation portion, the actuation portion configured to move with respect to the base portion in response to a first actuation of the actuation portion, the actuation portion further configured to substantially maintain its position with respect to the base portion in response to a second actuation of the actuation portion; and

a control circuit coupled to the touch sensitive device and configured to detect the second actuation via the touch sensitive device, the control circuit further configured to:

- generate first control data for turning the one or more electrical loads on and off based on the first actuation; and
- generate second control data for controlling a characteristic of the one or more electrical loads based on the second actuation.

18. The control device of claim 17, wherein the front surface of the actuation portion is substantially rectangular in shape.

19. The control device of claim 18, wherein the front surface of the actuation portion comprises a first portion and a second portion located on opposite sides of a pivot axis, the actuation portion further configured to pivot about the pivot axis in response to the first actuation.

**20.** The control device of claim 17, wherein the first actuation is applied by pushing the actuation portion toward the base portion.

**21.** The control device of claim 17, further comprising a substantially circular rotating portion that is rotatable about the actuation portion.

**22.** The control device of claim 17, wherein the second actuation comprises a tap, a press-and-hold, a swipe, a smack, a multi-finger pinch, or a multi-finger open applied to the front surface of the actuation portion.

**23.** The control device of claim 22, further comprising a light bar configured to be illuminated by one or more light sources, wherein the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to adjust respective amount of power delivered to the one or more electrical loads to an absolute level in response to the second actuation being applied to a location of the front surface adjacent to the light bar.

**24.** (canceled)

**25.** The control device of claim 23, wherein the control circuit is configured to illuminate at least a portion of the light bar to indicate the absolute level of the respective amount of power delivered to the one or more electrical loads.

**26.** The control device of claim 23, wherein the control circuit is configured to generate third control data for adjusting the respective amount of power delivered to the one or more electrical loads by a relative amount in response to a press and hold of the actuation portion that causes the actuation portion to move with respect to the base portion.

**27.** The control device of claim 22, wherein the second actuation is a swipe applied to the front surface of the actuation portion, and the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to adjust the respective amount of power delivered to the one or more electrical loads to a predetermined level in response to the swipe.

**28-31.** (canceled)

**32.** A control device configured for use in a load control system to control one or more electrical loads external to the control device, the control device comprising:

a touch sensitive surface configured to detect at least a point actuation and a gesture;

a control circuit configured to:

in response to the point actuation, generate first control data for changing a first characteristic of the one or more electrical loads; and

in response to the gesture, generate second control data for changing a second characteristic of the one or more electrical loads.

**33.** (canceled)

**34.** (canceled)

**35.** The control device of claim 32, wherein the gesture is a swipe, a smack, a multi-finger pinch, or a multi-finger open applied via the touch sensitive surface.

**36.** The control device of claim 32, further comprising a light bar configured to be illuminated by one or more light sources, wherein the point actuation is applied to an area of the touch sensitive surface adjacent to the light bar, and the control circuit is configured to generate the first control data to adjust respective amount of power delivered to the one or more electrical loads to an absolute level based on a location of the point actuation.

**37.** (canceled)

**38.** The control device of claim 32, wherein the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to cause the one or more electrical loads to enter a predetermined state in response to the gesture.

**39.** (canceled)

**40.** The control device of claim 38, wherein the gesture is a smack, and the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to turn the one or more electrical loads on and off in response to the smack.

**41.** The control device of claim 38, wherein the gesture is a swipe in a horizontal direction or a vertical direction.

**42.** The control device of claim 41, wherein the gesture is an upward swipe, the one or more electrical loads comprise a lighting load, and the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to adjust a light intensity of the lighting load to a maximum level in response to the swipe.

**43.** The control device of claim 41, wherein the gesture is a downward swipe, the one or more electrical loads comprise a lighting load, and the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to adjust a light intensity of the lighting load to a minimum level in response to the swipe.

**44.** The control device of claim 38, wherein the predetermined state corresponds to an off state of the one or more electrical loads.

**45.** The control device of claim 32, wherein the control circuit is configured to generate the second control data to activate a preset associated with the one or more electrical loads in response to the gesture.

**46.** The control device of claim 45, wherein the preset corresponds to at least one predetermined setting of the one or more electrical loads.

**47.** The control device of claim 32, wherein the control circuit is configured to change an operational mode of the control device in response to the gesture.

**48-101.** (canceled)

\* \* \* \* \*